FRONT: CHRISTMAS CRACKERS • 7 / MUSIC: DIETZCHE V. AND THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN • 25 / FILM: *THE AVIATOR* • 36

EDMONTON'S 100% INDEPENDENT NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

VUEWEEKLY

THE PERFECT SCORE

TOP HOLLYWOOD FILM COMPOSERS CARTER BURWELL AND MARK MOTHERSBAUGH TELL ALL ABOUT THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES WORLD OF SETTING FILM TO MUSIC • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK AND DARREN ZENKO

No. 479 / DEC. 23 - DEC. 29. 2004
HTTP://WWW.VUEWEEKLY.COM
FREE

Text at warp speed.

The best phone for texting. Only from TELUS.





Fastap
LG 6190

$99.99*
(3 yr contract)
$299.99 (no contract)

With separate raised keys for every letter, texting is fast and easy. You can also take and send pictures using the camera with built-in flash.

50% off
select plan rates
for up to 6 months†

+

Unlimited messaging
■ text ■ picture ■ video
for 3 months**

the future is friendly®

TELUS mobility®



TELUS MOBILITY STORES & AUTHORIZED DEALERS

EDMONTON

Abbotsfield Mall
Bonnie Doon
Capilano Mall
Edmonton City Centre
Kingsway Garden Mall
Londonderry Mall
Millwoods Towne Centre
Northgate Mall
Southgate Mall
West Edmonton Mall

Downtown

Alberta Mobility
9915 – 108A Ave.
Altin Computers
10025 Jasper Ave., #36
Connect
TELUS Plaza North
10025 Jasper Ave.
Save On Telecom
10603 – 107 St.

WEST END

Communications Group
10620 – 178 St.
Johnson Cellular
10429 – 178th St., #100
Save On Telecom
17543 – 100th Ave.
TAC Mobility
9935 – 170 St.
Wireless Technology
10203 – 178th St.

NORTH

Communications Group
13040 – 50 St.
Custom Cellular
Skyview Power Centre
13322 – 137 Ave. North West
Edmonton Cellular
14903 – 118 Ave.
Edmonton Wireless
10235 – 124th St., #101
Save On Telecom
11150 – 149 St.
Westcan Cellular
12604 – 126 St.
Westcan Wireless
12618 – 124 St.

SOUTH

Alberta Mike
3424 – 99th St.
Alta-Comm Wireless
8710 – 51st Ave.
Communications Group
5926 – 99 St.
Custom Communications
South Edmonton Common
1916 – 99 St.
Edmonton Cellular
10309 – 34 Ave.
TAC Mobility
4515 Gateway Blvd.
Wireless City
5912 – 104 St.
Xcell Communications
4909 – 99 St.

Fort Saskatchewan

Associated Telecom
9914 – 103 St.
Cambridge Electronics
10420 – 98 Ave., #350

Leduc

Communications 2000
5904 – 50 St., #6B
Complete Communications
5205 – 50 Ave.
Leduc Communications Inc.
6109 – 45 St., #7

Sherwood Park

Bernie's Cellular
973 Ordze Rd.
Complete Communications
2020 Sherwood Dr., #9

Spruce Grove

Maximum Mobility
96 Campsite Rd., #30
Maximum Mobility
116 Westland Market Mall

St. Albert

Global Cell Communications
20A Muir Dr.
St. Albert Communications
11 Perron St.
Save On Telecom
229 St. Albert Centre

Stony Plain

Starview Communications
5101 – 48th St., #107

For more details on these great offers, visit your TELUS Mobility authorized dealer or retailer, or visit telusmobility.com

FUTURE SHOP · The Telephone Booth · STAPLES · Visions · LONDON DRUGS · Sony Style · THE SOURCE · CompuSmart · Office Depot · Home Hardware · Superstore · Zellers

Phones may not be available at all locations. Phone prices may vary. Offers are available to new activations only for a limited time. See in-store today for details. *Effective net price after in-store discount or invoice credit on your future TELUS Mobility monthly bill. †Clients who sign a 1, 2, or 3 year contract on select rate plans will receive 50% off their monthly plan rate for 2, 4, or 6 months respectively. Offer does not include or apply to taxes, long distance, additional airtime, roaming, pay-per-use charges, monthly system licensing or enhanced 911 emergency service access charges which are extra. **Unlimited text, picture, and video messaging are for 90 days from the date of activation on select phones. Picture and video messaging are only available in 1X digital service areas. See telusmobility.com for details and coverage maps. Fastap is a trademark of Digit Wireless LLC. © 2004 TELUS Mobility.

Share the Love of Reading this Holiday



!ndigo love of reading fund

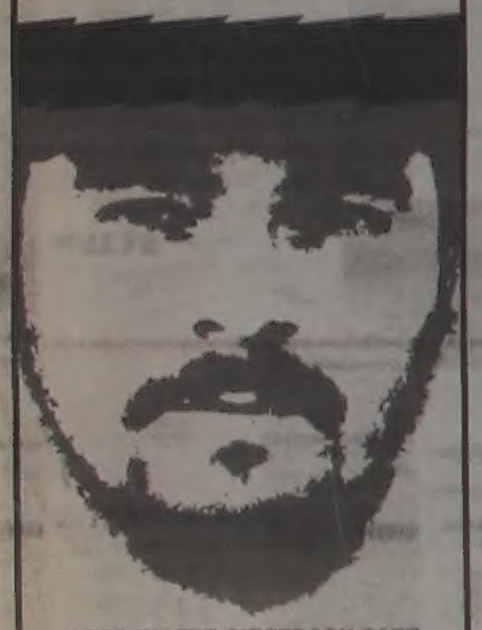
Add $1 to your giftcard purchase and you'll receive a beautiful giftcard holder. Proceeds will be used to provide new books to resource-poor schools across the country, opening a world of possibilities.

Chapters | !ndigo | COLES

chapters.indigo.ca

For more information, visit www.chapters.indigo.ca/corporategiving

CJSR
SPIKIN' THE NOG!

WE WISH YOU AND YOURS AN IN-YOUR-EAR MERRY CHRISTMAS, HOLY HANUKKAH, DIWALI, EID, HAPPY HOLIDAYS, CHANUKAH, FESTIVUS, DECEMBERWEEN, CHRISMUKKAH AND KWANZAA.

STOP BY THE SIDETRACK CAFE ON DECEMBER 23RD FOR A SMILIN' JAY'S HAPPY HOUR AS WE RECORD
SHUYLER JANSEN'S HOBOTRON
AND
CHAD VAN GAALEN
COME AND BE A PART OF THE LOUD AND LIVE AUDIENCE!
cjsr FM88
SMILIN' JAY'S HAPPY HOUR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE BOYLE STREET PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY, MKT SYSTEMS, SIDETRACK MUSIC, THE NUMBER 88.5, AND THE LETTERS C, J, S, AND R.

CONTENTS

FRONT
4 Your Vue
5 Three Dollar Bill
6 News Roundup
6 VuePoint
7 Christmas crackers
8 Bob the Angry Flower
8 A Life After Gretzky Kinda Christmas
10 Infinite Lives
12 *Men and Cartoons*
14 *The Double*
15 Snow Zone

DISH
20 Death By Chocolate
21 Arbour Restaurant

MUSIC
24 Collective Soul
25 Dietzche V. and the Abominable Snowman
26 Music Notes
28 Music Weekly
30 Homestead Christmas Showcase
32 Feedback
33 BPM
33 Distant Replay
34 New Sounds
34 Quick Spins

FILM
36 *The Aviator*
36 *House of Flying Daggers*
37 *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*
37 *Phantom of the Opera*
38 Film Composers
40 Film Weekly
42 *Spanglish*
42 Heresy!

ARTS
43 Arts Weekly

THE BACK
44 Events Weekly
44 Free Will Astrology
45 Classifieds
45 Alt Sex Column

ON THE COVER

What is a screen kiss without that swelling string section behind it, or a high-speed car chase without that heart-pounding bongo thing they always seem to do? The answer? Crap. Total crap. We may not realize it all the time, but a film's musical score can often mean the difference between cinematic success and bargain-bin failure. Renowned film composers Carter Burwell and Mark Mothersbaugh know the score; let's go see what they had to say, shall we? • **42**



FRONT

Christmas crackers: the decline begins—just in time for the holidays! • **7**



MUSIC

Dietzche V. and the Abominable Snowman: big proponents of partying • **24**



FILM

The Aviator: Howard Hughes was crazy, hey? But at the same time, very attractive • **36**



yourVUE

Tis the season... for hating Chris Boutet!

Re: "Snow falling on readers," Life After Gretzky (December 9-15):

Please help me understand why a quality paper such as your own would employ a writer who by his own admission has nothing of any relevance to say. Reading Life After Gretzky has not only been consistently a waste of time and newsprint but as well the writer's smug sarcasm when writing about nothing is an insult to the intelligence of the reader. Sarcasm is the lowest form of humour and not only does it reveal a viciousness in the person that employs it but is as well an assault upon those on the receiving end which is your entire reading public. The writer's column is ample evidence that a degree in journalism, if indeed he has one, does not guarantee quality or even interesting writing but, it seems, can be a license for myopic, moronic stupidity. There are plenty of us out here who would relish the opportunity to share with others our opinions and observations of the beauty and the tragedy and the wonder of the world in which we live. Life is boring for only those who are bored with themselves and your paper should not contribute to the spread of spiritual and cerebral malaise by publishing this writer's words about nothing. —John G. Clarke, Edmonton

*Vue Weekly welcomes reader response, both positive and negative. Send your opinion by mail (*Vue Weekly, *10303-108 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5J 1L7), by fax ((780) 426-2889) or by e-mail (letters@vueweekly.com). Preference is given to feedback about articles in* Vue Weekly*; we reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Please include a daytime telephone number.*

industry thursdays
drinks $2
doors 9pm
win $1000 on the last thursday of every month
The Gas Pump
10166 114 street 488.4841





three dollar bill

BY RICHARD BURNETT

2004's heroes and zeroes

Heroes The Supreme Court of Canada, who unanimously ruled on December 9 that same-sex marriage is constitutional and must become the law of the land.

Heroes The 60 per cent of Canadians surveyed in an April 6-11 Leger Marketing Poll who said that being homophobic is as bad as being racist or anti-Semitic. Alberta, at 47 per cent, had the lowest level of people who felt this way.

Hero Ashley MacIsaac (who would normally rate a zero) for offering to hold Canada's largest gay wedding in Alberta—if he can find someone to marry.

Zeroes Protesters in Conway, Arkansas (population 26,000), who pelted that town's Gay Pride route with cow manure.

Heroes Sao Paulo, Brazil, for hosting 1.1 million people at the world's largest Gay Pride parade ever on June 13.

Zeroes The Spurger, Texas school district for banning the TWIRP homecoming tradition of cross-dressing in favour of Camo Day, in which students wear black boots and army camouflage. Maybe they should call it Colombine Day, instead.

Zero Barry Manilow who said onstage during his October 7 gig at Madison Square Garden that two guys singing face-to-face is "creepy." Yes, *that* Barry Manilow. A Las Vegas casino then signed Manilow to a $60 million contract. So now, when in Vegas, one can shoot crap or listen to it.

Zeroes Zanzibar for outlawing gay sex; Uganda for ordering a UN program not to offer AIDS education to gays or they would get thrown out of the country; Muslim courts in Nigeria and Burundi for sentencing gay men to death.

Hero Sierra Leone lesbian activist Fanny Ann Eddy, 30, raped and killed on September 28 after founding her country's first gay rights organization.

Zeroes Australia, for banning gay marriage on August 13; Norway, for banning gay marriage and gay adoption on November 18.

Zero Former New Jersey governor James McGreevey who announced "I am a gay American," only after being forced out of the closet.

Zero Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey who was "mugged" in a cruisy park renowned among gay men, near London's Old Vic theatre where he was artistic director. Spacey said he just happened to being walking his dog—at 4:30 a.m.

Zero TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart who said on-air in September, "I've never seen a man in my life I wanted to marry. And I'm gonna be blunt and plain: If one ever looks at me like that, I'm gonna kill him and tell God he died."

Hero Butch country singer Wynonna for singing on a lesbian cruise that sets sail on January 29, despite it infuriating her Christian fans. Wynonna's good friend Rosie O'Donnell, after promoting another lesbian cruise, was greeted by protestors when her ship docked July 16 in the Bahamas.

Zeroes Jamaican dancehall singers Sizzla, Beenie Man, Bounty Killer, Buju Banton and others for their viciously anti-gay lyrics and public tirades. Jamaica's leading gay-rights activist Brian Williamson, meanwhile, was found stabbed and killed in his Kingston home on June 9.

Hero Erasure singer Andy Bell for announcing December 13 that he has been HIV positive since June 1998.

Zero Kenyan ecologist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai who still insists the AIDS virus was a deliberately created biological agent.

Zero U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney's lesbian daughter, Mary, who ran her father's re-election campaign.

Hero Patrick Guerriero, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, who chastised the 20 per cent of gay and lesbian Americans who voted for Bush/Cheney in 2004, saying "It is time for all of us to go on the offense rather than always playing defense on the radical right's turf." You go, girl.

Zero Italian cabinet minister Rocco Buttiglione, who said Europe is controlled by "faggots." Buttiglione then stepped down as Italy's nominee to be the EU's Commissioner for Justice.

Heroes The United Nations, which on October 1 restated its support for medical and pension benefits for the gay partners of UN staff over the objections of The Vatican and the 57-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Heroes Weathergirl Izora Rhodes Armstead, who sang "It's Raining Men" with Martha Wash, died on September 20; bisexual actor Marlon Brando, who defined the leather look in the 1953 film *The Wild One*, died July 1; mystery novelist Joseph Hansen, who created one of literature's first gay detectives, died November 24; and (hetero) Pierre Berton, Canada's great gay ally who testified on behalf of Vancouver's Little Sisters gay bookstore against Canada Customs, died November 30.

Hero Engelbert Humperdinck, who sang the song *Lesbian Seagull* in MTV's Beavis and Butthead movie. As Engelbert told me himself earlier this year, "If homosexuality can happen in humans, it can happen to birds. And I support that. We should all have freedom of life." ❶



vueweekly.com
vueweekly.com
vueweekly.com
vueweekly.com
vueweekly.com
vueweekly.com

Holiday Wish List

Guitars

Buy any Fender 50th Anniversary strat and receive a free copy of The Stratocaster Chronicles ($75 value!)

Samson SR5/ST5/GC5
stage 5 wireless guitar system
$139.00

Squier Mini Strat
small electric guitar (cobalt blue)
$149.00 (case extra)
(colour not as shown)

Ibanez SR300DXB-SB
SR Bass sunburst w black hardware
$389.00
(colour not as shown)

Pro Audio

Samson SR5/HT5-Q7
series 5 handheld system
$149.00

Numark HF-125
flexible 7-position dual headphone
$16.95

Apex 950
dynamic cardioid low z mic w/ cable
$25.00

Cakewalk Homestudio 2004
recording software
$125.00

Tascam MF-P01
Mini studio 4-track
$149.00

Roland BR864
digital recorder
$599.00

Keyboard

Yamaha P60
digital piano $1195.00

Korg MicroKORG
VA synth/vocoder
$499.00
Free AKG headphones

M-Audio Keystation 49E
MIDI controller $135.00

Zoom MRT-3
Micro Rhythm Trak drum machine
$155.00

Band

Blessing flute outfit $350.00
Amati clarinet outfit $395.00
Alpine alto sax outfit $695.00
Alpine tenor sax outfit $995.00
Blessing trumpet outfit $475.00
Blessing trombone outfit $475.00
Yamaha violin outfit $499.00
Free $20 gift card & BS103 stand!

Traynor TT2
$17.95 electronic tuner

Drums

Drum Workshop DW4002
double bass drum pedal
$195.00

Large djembes
handmade in Africa
$199.00

Sonor Force 1003
5-piece drumset in wine red & blue*
$595.00 (cymbals extra)
(*exclusive L&M colour)

Yamaha Rydeen
5-piece drumset w/ hardware
$675.00 (cymbals extra)

Westbury 575T
5-piece drumset w/ hardware
$295.00 (cymbals extra)

Roland TD-3KS
electronic drumset
$1275.00

Great stocking stuffers under $20!

Long & McQuade
(780) 423-4448
10204-107th AVENUE

VUE WEEKLY

10303-108 St.
Edmonton, AB T5J 1L7
Tel: (780) 426-1996
Fax: (780) 426-2889
e-mail: <office@vueweekly.com>
website: www.vueweekly.com

Issue Number 479
December 23-29, 2004
available at over 1,400 locations

Editor/Publisher
Ron Garth
<ron@vueweekly.com>

Associate Publisher
Maureen Fleming
<maureen@vueweekly.com>

Editorial Directors
Heather Adler (Music Editor)
<heather@vueweekly.com>
Chris Boutet (News Editor)
<chris@vueweekly.com>
Paul Matwychuk (Managing Editor)
<paul@vueweekly.com>
Wayne Arthurson (Special Features Editor)
<sutanky@telusplanet.net>

Production Manager
Lyle Bell
<lyle@vueweekly.com>

Listings
Glenys Switzer
<glenys@vueweekly.com>

Layout Manager
Sean Rivalin
<sean@vueweekly.com>

Sales and Marketing Manager
Rob Lightfoot
<rob@vueweekly.com>

Classifieds Sales
Carol Robinson

Distribution & Promotions Representative
Christine Yanish
<christine@vueweekly.com>

Local Advertising
Call 426-1996

National Advertising
DPS Media (416) 413-9291

Contributors
Colleen Addison, Bill Beard, David Berry, Richard Burnett, Josef Braun, Colin Cathrea, Leah Collins, Phil Dupperon, Tiffani Honeychurch, Whitey Houston, Iain Ilich, Minister Faust, Ross Moroz, Stephen Notley, TB Player, James Radke, Steve Sandor, Christie Schultz, David Stone, Christopher Thrall, Darren Zenko

Cover Illustration
Lyle Bell

Production Assistant
Michael Siek

Administrative Assistant
Jasmine Politeski

Printing and Film Assembly
The Edmonton Sun

Distribution
Marty Anderson, Alan Ching, Derek Mohammed, Bob Riley, Wally Yanish, Clark Distribution

Vue Weekly is available free of charge at well over 1,400 locations throughout Edmonton. We are funded solely through the support of our advertisers. *Vue Weekly* is a division of 783783 Alberta Ltd. and is published every Thursday.

Vue Weekly is available free of charge throughout Greater Edmonton and Northern Alberta, limited to one copy per reader. *Vue Weekly* may be distributed only by *Vue Weekly*'s authorized independant contractors and employees. No person may, without prior written permission of *Vue Weekly*, take more than one copy of each *Vue Weekly* issue.

Canada Post Canadian Publications Ltd.
Publications Mail Agreement No. 40022985
Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to 10303-108 St., Edmonton, AB., T5J 1L7
email: admin@publisher.com

Audit Bureau of Circulations
Member





news roundup

By CHRIS BOUTET

THAT'S GOOD JUSTICE!

You know, the police in this country have been the victims of a pretty wicked public opinion dogpile over the last few months regarding their ability to properly discipline their own officers. But, in the midst of all this media negativity, there is still a glimmer of hope to be found—in Saskatchewan, of all places, the Saskatoon police department decided to show Canadians that they weren't afraid to hold their own kind accountable for their actions this week, as they bravely allowed a senior city police officer who helped prosecute a dozen people on completely false sexual abuse charges to retire rather than face a disciplinary hearing.

According to reports earlier this week by the Canadian Press, lawyers for Brian Dueck tendered the disgraced officer's resignation to Saskatoon police Chief Russ Sabo during a private meeting, which, according to a press release submitted by the police service, means that Dueck is no longer subject to disciplinary action as outlined by the Saskatchewan Police Act, saving the police the messy job of, you know, dealing with anything that might make them look bad—which the Dueck case probably would have. According to CP, Dueck was the lead investigator in a sex abuse case that resulted in numerous charges being laid against one Richard Klassen and 11 members of his extended family in the early 1990s. In December of last year, a Saskatchewan judge found that Dueck's investigation was malicious in its determination to persecute the Klassens with a case built entirely upon what would later turn out to be fabricated stories of satanic sex rituals provided by three foster children.

Huh. Needless to say, the Dueck fiasco probably isn't what the Saskatchewan justice minister had in mind when he asked the Saskatoon police to commission a draft plan to restore confidence in the city police in the wake of those two other Saskatoon officers who were fired for driving native men to the outskirts of town in the winter and leaving them to die. But hey: baby steps, people.

THAT'S GOOD MORALITY!

But no matter what we all may think about officers of the law and the potential for abuse that is intrinsic in their position in society, at least there's one thing that we, young and old, can all agree on: sex is terrifying. Right? Hey? Are we agreeing on this, here? No? Well, then, I suppose this is just where we and the good people of New Brunswick will have to agree to disagree, if the sheer number of Christmas cards that the maritime province's premier Bernard Lord has received from parents demanding that the province scrap a controversial sex education course for young teens is any indication.

According to a story on ctv.ca, a group of concerned Fredericton moms delivered four gift boxes to the premier's office on Tuesday containing roughly 700 cards from parents and individuals worried about the province's sex ed curriculum for grades six through eight; according to the group, even more were earlier sent directly to the premier's office and the provincial Education Department. "We are hoping that he (Lord) will do what's best to protect the innocence of children in New Brunswick," said Elizabeth Wilson, one of the mothers who delivered the package, in an interview with CP.

Actually, the provincial government was already reviewing the sex ed course's material in the wake of a flurry of complaints from parents who feel the course material is too explicit and too graphic. According to the CP, the curriculum, which is geared towards children aged 11 to 13, deals quite frankly with such frightening topics as masturbation, oral sex and sexual pleasure. But most parents are reportedly concerned with what the course *doesn't* deal with. "The course relies heavily on condom usage," said Wilson. "Abstinence should be a stated goal in this curriculum."

Surely we can all agree on that. Moral fibres, folks; they're being pulled asunder as we speak. Well, as I type. And you read. Hopefully.

THAT'S GOOD OPPORTUNISM!

The World Wildlife Fund's Arctic Program division in Oslo, Norway proved once and for all this week that pretty much anything is up for exploitation to further their cause earlier this week, as they announced to mild media attention that Santa may have to move his workshop from the North Pole soon, as global warming is thawing the ice beneath his elves' and reindeers' feet.

According to a report from Reuters, the group is basing its claims on the facts laid out in an eight-nation report last month that predicted the Arctic Ocean could be ice-free by 2100 due to a buildup of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere created by the overconsumption of fossil fuels. "Santa's workshop is in dire straits. The platform for the workshop is melting," said Stefan Norris of the Arctic Program. "Santa may have to move from the North Pole within our children's lifetimes."

Which, of course, would probably be terrible or something. Also, every time you eat meat, God punches the Tooth Fairy in the face.

! vuepoint

By MINISTER FAUST

In the United States, many folks not only take the separation between Church and State seriously—they take it personally. That's understandable, since many Yanks descend from folks fleeing persecution of religious minorities in (mostly) mono-cultural, mono-religious European countries; But occasionally folks following good rules forget the rationales for those rules and the histories behind them, and end up banning stuff for no good reason whatsoever. Folks in Pasco County, Florida, aren't exactly full of tidings of comfort and joy over the decision of their officials to ban—wait for it—*Christmas trees* from public buildings. Why? Because Christmas trees are "religious symbols."

What? Tree-jacking is a remnant of Germanic tribal religion, not a Middle Eastern religion such as Christianity. But okay, sure, evergreens have been subsumed into Christianity, so don't they qualify, especially since we even call them "Christmas" trees? Let's get real, folks—Christmas is just about the most secular celebration in North America. Personally, I'd love to see more genuine religiosity at Christmas time (and I'm not even a Christian!), but for most people, the hero of Christmas isn't Yehoshua bin-Yosef (known to you by the Greek name "Jesus"), but Santa Claus. For better or worse and for the majority of North Americans, Christmas has been de-natured.

So to the Yanks legislators and enforcement officials who mean well, who are understandably worried about their republic increasingly sliding into terrifying right-wing fundamentalist domination, who are horrified by the prospect of half their country favouring full-spectrum religious profiling and segregation, to these people who want to defend liberty against religious bigotry and xenophobia, I say this:

Ban things that *harm* people. That's what law is really good at. And if you're looking for super-destructive things to ban, you might try nicotine (with tar and arsenic and the other poisons in cigarettes) and alcohol, the most destructive chemical in human history (okay, okay... I know that one ain't gonna happen).

E-Town's Heritage Days should be a model for the world, and we could apply it at City Hall. Every Christmas we have a beautiful Nativity scene—let's expand that project. Let's have a big menorah (or something) at City Hall during Hanukkah with a nice public ceremony beforehand, and something else during Eid-ul-Fitr and something else during Diwali and so on. Interested ethno-religious groups can contact city councilors with suggestions, and better yet, with donations of art and services. Let's celebrate it all. Cuz it's all part of who we are.





Illustration by Stephen Notley

Not with a bang, but a whimper

They may have excited us as kids, but Christmas crackers have gotten pretty crappy as of late

BY **DARREN ZENKO**

One hundred and fifty-seven years ago, an East London confectioner by the name of Tom Smith made a chain of marketing innovations and ended up creating an enduring icon of Anglo Christmas. Already riding high off his gimmick of including slips of paper bearing treacly observations on love in the wrapper of his French-style bonbons, he knew he had to go one better if he was to keep his novelty-hungry 19th-Centurian clientele happy. Eventually, he came up with a paper tube containing a motto, a party hat, a small toy or trinket and a gunpowder-dusted strip of paper for that festive bang, and the Christmas cracker was born.

Here in the jet-propelled cyberscape of the 21st century, this festive diversion is still with us, and its form isn't much different, though the exquisite fancies of the bourgeois London Christmas scene have, like many once-exclusive luxuries, become relatively plebeian: these days, eight bucks and a trip to Wal-Mart will provide a tableful of sparkling surprise packages.

One doesn't expect awesome, must-have gifts to come bursting forth from today's crackers, but having pulled them all my life, I couldn't shake the feeling that today's cracker-contents have gone way downhill. When I snapped one open at a family dinner earlier this month and was rewarded with six tiny elastic bands, I knew I had to get to the bottom of things. Dozens of crackings later, the story can be told.

THE PRICE

Reconnaissance reveals that most of the Christmas cracker packets widely available in Edmonton are distributed by the Mind's Eye company of Menlo Park, CA—not to be confused with Menlo Park, NJ, where Thomas Edison invented everything cool; The Bay, Costco and Save-On Foods all carry Mind's Eye crackers. But not all Mind's Eye crackers are created equal: there is a very clear distinction between the "A" crackers and the "B" crackers.

The A-list offerings (the box tested came from Costco) are a bit larger and more elaborately decorated than the B-list crackers, but the price difference—$18.99 for 16 versus $7.99 for eight—is negligible, due perhaps to Costco's wholesale approach. All are assembled in China: as in Tom Smith's time, Christmas crackers are still made by semi-indentured urban peasants making pennies a day.

THE GIFTS

The first thing you'll notice about the A package is a photograph on the front of the box showing the stuff you'll find inside: small tape measures, collapsible scissors, miniature decks of cards, etc. This detracts from the surprise, but ensures the host/hostess that their guests are going to receive recognizable, semi-functional items. The collapsible scissors, with a little sewing kit in the handle, were probably the coolest item offered—and the one most closely resembling a real gift—while the wine charms were the chintziest. I still don't understand the wine-charm trend (if you've never seen them, they're these little coloured rings you're supposed to hand out at parties so people can put them on their glasses to avoid confusion), but then again I rarely let my drink leave my hand. Maybe fancy people are more carefree with their booze.

FEATURE

The B package is where the real madness begins, in dazzling plastic variety. These party favours make Kinder Surprise toys look like extravagant diversions from the Neiman-Marcus catalogue. Some examples:

• A crumbling rubber ball with five inches of semi-elastic string attached

• A keychain that's probably supposed to be lychee nuts or something, but really just looks like a pair of hot-pink testicles

• A wheel-within-wheel top straight out of the Prophet Ezekiel's famous vision, except Ezekiel's wheels actually spun and moved, and had four faces and four wings, and above the firmament over their heads there was the likeness of a throne in appearance like sapphire, and the Lord was in the driver's seat

• cheap paper puzzles

• a single hair barrette with a pink ear of corn on it

• countless mystery objects of unknown function

THE JOKES

Tom Smith's original notes bearing inspirational sayings and mottoes changed a lot over the years, eventually boiling down to fortune-cookie-sized slips of paper printed with corny jokes, and thanks to official bilingualism, Canadian Christmas crackers provide us with at least one chance per year to see how our junior-high French is holding up. Because these are for family consumption, the jokes are all straight out of the lamest, safest joke book you could order in Grade One. (Q: What animal breaks the law? A: The Cheetah. Get it?)

There isn't much difference between the joke content of the A and B crackers, though they are apparently separate series. What both of them do offer, though, is the closest thing to a Zen experience you're going to get from a commercial Christmas product: there are jokes so lame, so mirthless, they become koans:

• Where is the ocean the deepest? The bottom.

• What do you call a sheep with no legs? A cloud.

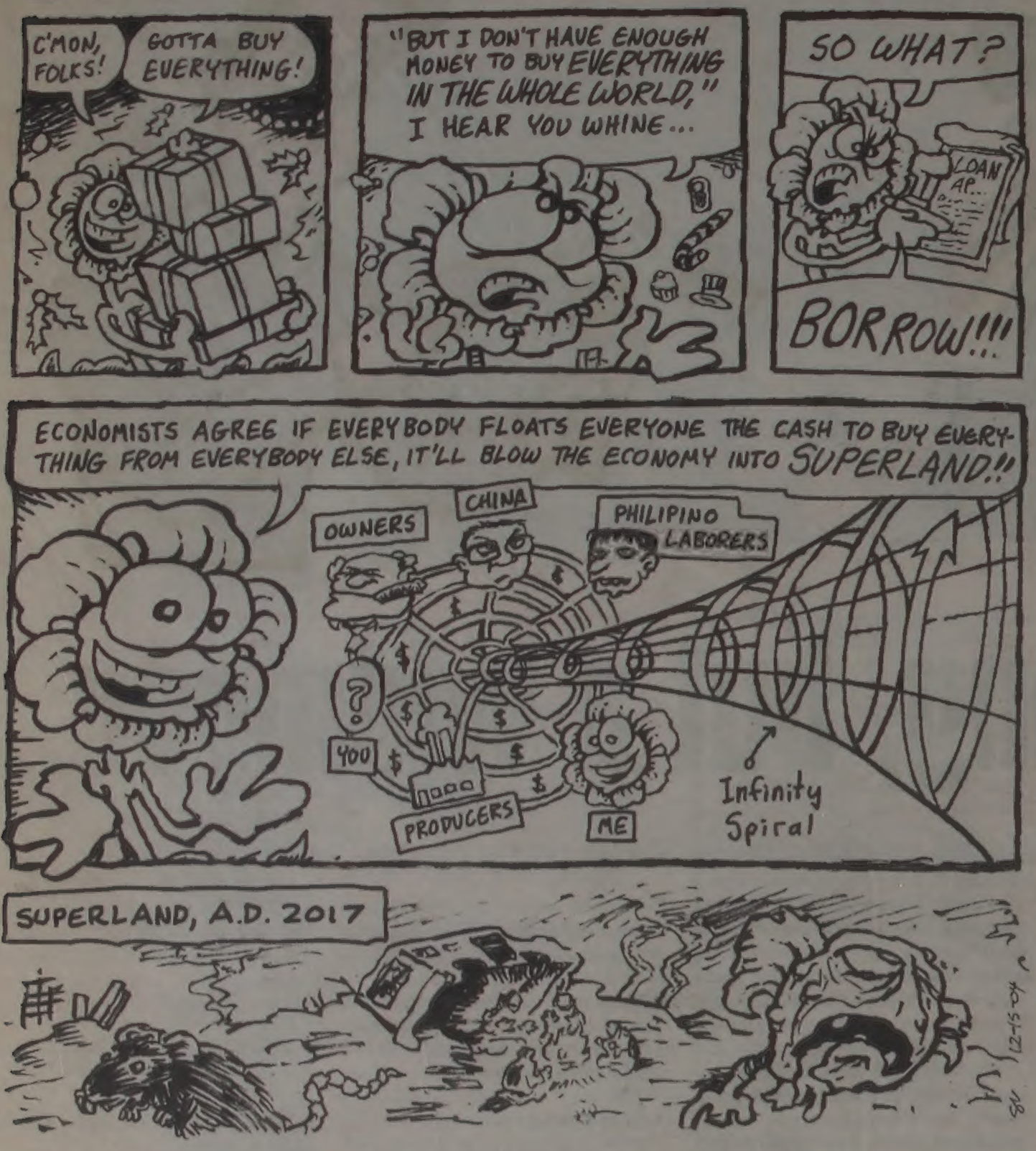
• And finally, one in French because it's classy and philosophical:

Quand on dit son nom, il se brise. Qui est-ce? Le silence.

CONCLUSIONS

Have the contents of Christmas crackers become cheaper and cheaper over the years? Over the long term, the answer is certainly "yes"; the only thing about today's crackers that would excite Tom Smith's Victorian clients is the miracle of plastic. But over the course of the last 30 years? Hard to say. The memories of a two-year-old can't really be trusted, and Christmas is especially dangerous for erroneous nostalgia; this shitty motorbike-shaped whistle might have seemed super-rad to me back then.

One thing hasn't changed, though: Christmas crackers still contain tissue-paper crowns so light you forget you're wearing them and end up walking around the party all night looking like the Lavender King of Castle Cheapass. Man, that's the worst.





life after gretzky

BY CHRIS BOUTET

The best Christmas ever

One dollar and eighty-seven cents—60 cents of it in pennies; that was all Anna could find after having spent the better part of the morning frantically turning the house upside down. These coins were all she had to buy a gift for her beloved husband, Tim, who worked so hard and gave her so much. If there was anyone who deserved the most perfect gift of all the world, she thought to herself, it was Tim—but this she could not afford with a handful of change.

She had been going about her errands at the department store downtown the day before when she had seen the gift she wished to buy: a platinum fob, simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation, that would compliment perfectly Tim's humble pocket watch. To buy this fob would cost 21 dollars; Anna was just under 20 dollars short. But 20 dollars, incidentally, was also the amount she was told she would receive from the wig shop in exchange for her beautiful, long brown head of hair. Wrapping her scarf around her neck, Anna inhaled deeply and walked down the front steps into the street.

Two hours later, she was back at the flat, waiting for her husband to arrive home from work, still somewhat in shock over the day's events. For some time she examined herself quizzically in the mirror, convinced that Tim would find the inch-long schoolboy locks that now lay flat on her scalp to be unforgivably hideous; now and again, she glanced down at the watch fob in her hand, hoping upon hope that this would all prove worth it. Anna heard familiar footsteps on the landing, and her heart leapt as the doorknob turned. As Tim walked through the door his gaze became transfixed on his Anna, standing anxiously in the middle of the room. For a time neither of them moved.

"Oh no, Tim, no," she cried, "Please don't be upset with me! I had my hair cut off and sold because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again—you won't mind, will you? You don't know what a nice, what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you!"

As Anna moved towards him, his gift outstretched, Tim's eyes fell on the platinum chain. A smile crossed his lips, and he walked into the living room and flopped down on the couch, his hands folded behind his head. "Anna," he said, "Indeed it is a beautiful present, but I cannot accept it. For you see, I sold the watch this afternoon to buy—"

"Oh Tim, you didn't sell your watch to ironically buy me some hair-related Christmas present for me, did you?," asked Anna, her eyes softening as the innocent folly of their ways dawned on her.

"What? No! I didn't even know it was Christmas today; I thought it was next Thursday," Tim replied. "No no no, I sold my watch to buy this totally awesome shirt from San Francisco in the mall. Check it out!"

Tim unbuttoned his suit jacket to reveal a T-shirt depicting what it proclaimed to be the 100 different types of farts capable of being produced by the human body. "Look!," cried Tim delightedly. "This one's called the 'wet and squeaky ass-ripper'! Isn't that the funniest fucking thing you've ever seen? Hey? Hey?"

Anna said nothing, and stared dumbfoundedly down at the fob in her hand as Tim took time to examine his shirt further, giggling intermittently; after a few minutes, he let out a deep, satisfied sigh and, rising off the couch, stepped towards his wife.

"So," he whispered softly into her ear as he embraced her, "I was thinking we could have pork chops tonight." ●

INDULGE YOUR PASSION FOR BOOKS

SAVE 25% EVERYDAY ON GLOBE AND MAIL BESTSELLERS

BOXING WEEK BARGAINS!

INCLUDES A WIDE ASSORTMENT OF MARKDOWNS, PUBLISHERS' CLEARANCE, BARGAIN BOOKS & REGULAR STOCK REDUCED TO CLEAR!

CALENDARS 40% OFF

ALL CHILDREN'S & ADULT CHRISTMAS TITLES 20% OFF

REGULAR PRICED STOCK ONLY

Boxing Week Only



AUDREYS LITERARY SALON

DOUG COUPLAND

author of GENERATION X and HEY NOSTRADAMUS

reads from his new novel

ELEANOR RIGBY

PARAMOUNT THEATRE ON JASPER AVENUE 10233 JASPER AVENUE

TICKETS $5.00 • AVAILABLE FROM AUDREYS BOOKS

MON JAN 10TH 7:30PM

Boxing Week Only

ALL HARDCOVERS 20% OFF

REGULAR PRICED STOCK ONLY

Boxing Week Only

HOLIDAY HOURS

CLOSED DEC. 25 & 26

OPEN DEC. 27-30 9-9

DEC. 31 (9-5:30

Audreys BOOKS LTD

10702 Jasper Ave. Edmonton. AB. T5J 3J5 Tel: (780) 423-3487 Fax: (780) 425-8446 Toll Free: 1-800-661-3649 Email: audrey@audreysbooks.com

hellomoto.com

MOTOROLA

CINE MOTO

the new motorola v710

- video capture/playback
- 1.3 megapixel camera
- 260k colour screen
- mp3 player/ringtones
- name/number dial with voice commands
- Bluetooth® wireless
- removable memory
- speakerphone

All screen images simulated

MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. The Bluetooth trademarks are owned by their proprietor and used by Motorola, Inc. under license. © Motorola, Inc. 2004



infinite lives

BY DARREN ZENKO









Great Gifts for Gamers Guide 2004!!!

Every year, Santa brings two very special presents to weasels who write for a living: year-in-review issues and "gift guides"—both of which are the easiest money any of us are going to make all year. It's like a Mother's Day scenario, where we can just put our feet up (or leave them up), eat our ramen noodles in bed and just phone stuff in. Gift-guiding has always been particularly easy for me, because my list only ever has one piece of advice on it: want to get a guy or girl a game but don't know which to grab? Don't guess; give gift certificates. It's alliterative, so it should be easy to remember, but I know how it's really going to play out. All over the First World (and walled-in sections of the Second) fans of Japanese RPGs are going to be unwrapping copies of *ATV Off-Road Fury* and wondering if EB's open on Christmas so that can trade in for a quarter-share of *Growlanser: Generations*.

But gift certificates aren't *personal* enough for lots of folks; for some, they carry a feeling of throwing up one's hands and saying "I don't know you and I don't know your tastes. Pick your own present." Which is exactly the point, but for those who want the personal touch, here are some last-minute ideas for that callous-thumbed game geek on your list.

RETARDED CONTROLLERS: Every gamer needs more controllers, but stock models (the only ones really worth a shit) don't have that "get them something they'd never buy for themselves" cachet. Why not get a ridiculous novelty controller? I'm thinking of something like the Nyko AirFlo controllers, which contain a fan that routes air around the user's palms, whisking away the sweat of battle. There are certain medical conditions that would make something like this a necessity, but for those who don't suffer from hyperhidrosis, the AirFlo (standard or wireless) is a novelty item, conversation piece, gag gift, extravagant gizmo... perfect!

MOD CHIPPING: Alright, this isn't a "last minute" gift, but you might be able to get it done in time for Ukrainian Christmas, or maybe next year. It's also a bit illegalish. What you have to do is smuggle the recipient's box out of the house, and get it to a grey-market semi-scumbag (check the *Bargain Finder*) who will rip it open and sloppily solder in a chip that will allow the machine to play import and pirated games. This will void the warranty, and quite possibly fuck up the deck permanently, but won't it be worth it when your nerd unwraps *Cherry Blossom Bikini School Tactics Popi-Popi Ken-Ken DX*?

Gamer: What the...? I can't play this; it's Japanese. Where'd you even get it?

You: Oh, just try it out. Maybe it'll work!

Gamer: I'm telling you, it won't... oh. Oh. Oh no way. It works! Look!

You: Jesus, that's some fucked-up shit.

FOOD: Pizza coupons. Or a tray of lasagna frozen into individual microwaveable portions. Trust me.

IN-JOKES: This one's for the ladies; it only works if you're known to be clueless about games, and it's really a gift you're giving yourself. Lurk online message boards or interrogate gamer friends and pick up some catchphrases and insider lingo. Then when, say, some bureaucrat gives you the runaround and sends you to a different office across campus or across town, you can mutter under your breath "Thank you, Mario, but our princess is in another castle!" Better be ready to hustle home and "play through all eight worlds," as they say; pretty girls making Mario Bros. jokes is nerd Viagra.

WASH THEIR DISHES: You ever notice how some gift guides come across as thinly veiled cries for help? Yeah.

STRATHCONA TOWN CENTRE

7915-104 ST.

Come visit us for all your last minute Christmas shopping!

BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO
CALLIDAS (LADIES FASHION)
CANADIAN WESTERN BANK
CHINESE SUPERSTORE
DOAN'S VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT
GREENWOODS BOOKSHOPPE
HOIYA (UNIQUE GIFTS)
LA PIAZZA DASEE FLOWERS
LEISURE TRAVEL
PLANET ORGANIC HEALTH FOOD
RUSSO HAIR STUDIO
SAM WOK RESTAURANT
TEE JAY BARBER
WAYNE MICHAEL BARRY PROF. CORP.

Here's your opportunity to save lives.

Book a blood donation appointment today!

Canadian Blood Services
8249 - 114 Street

Donor Clinic Hours

Monday - Friday
8 am - 1:30 pm &
3 pm - 7 pm

Saturday
9 am - 2 pm

Call 1 888 2 DONATE
for more information or to book an appointment.

hellomoto.com

MOTOROLA

MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. The Bluetooth trademarks are owned by their proprietor and used by Motorola, Inc. under license. © Motorola, Inc. 2004

MOTO CAM OP

The new motorola v710

1.3 megapixel camera

video capture/playback

260k colour screen

mp3 player/ringtones

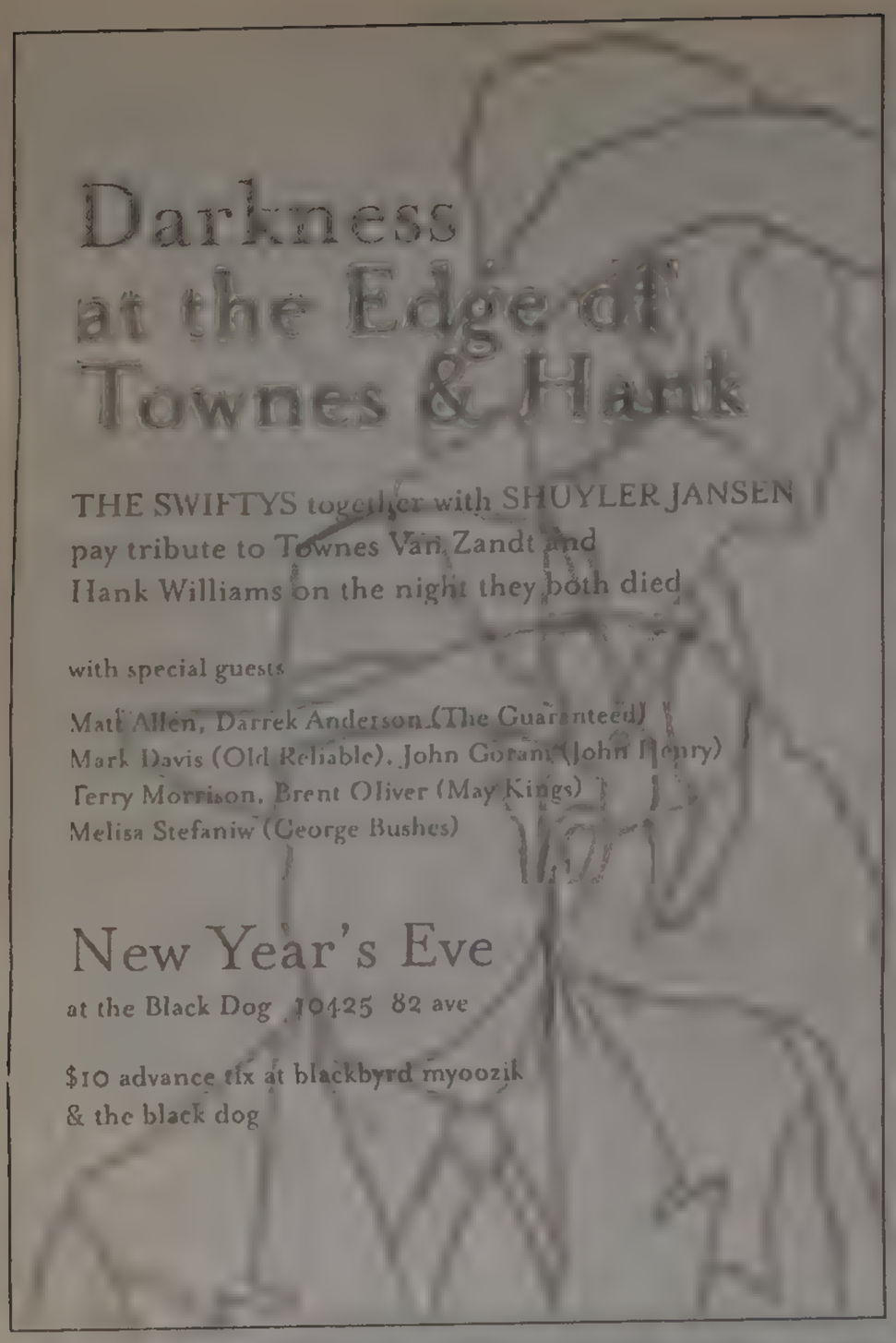
name/number dial with voice commands

Bluetooth wireless

removable memory

speakerphone

All screen images simulated.



Panel discussion

Jonathan Lethem tells three-dimensional stories about two-dimensional worlds in *Men and Cartoons*

By IAIN ILICH

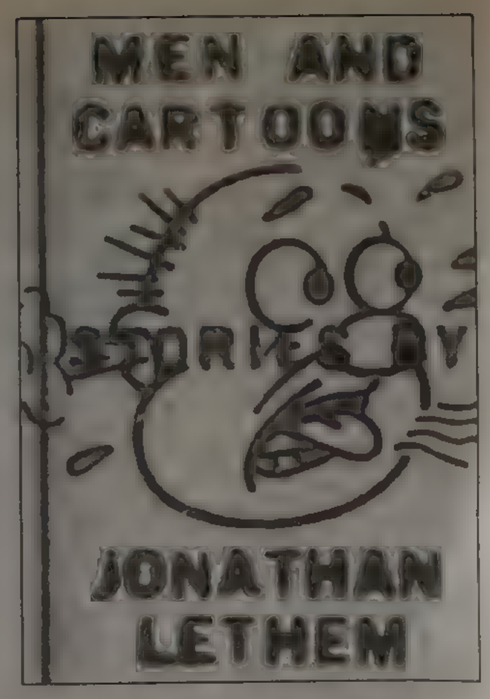
Jonathan Lethem has made a career out of writing strange, fun, intelligent blends of genre fiction, creating worlds just a few degrees out of kilter from the one we're used to. Lethem has written a sci-fi western, a futuristic crime story about a contract-killer kangaroo and, more recently, a hardboiled detective novel whose main character has Tourette's Syndrome. Jonathan Lethem's imagination can get away with almost anything, it seems, and thanks to his skill as a writer, he generally does it with aplomb.

Lethem's latest effort, ***Men and Cartoons***, is a collection of short stories that follows in the wake of his critically acclaimed 2003 novel, *The Fortress of Solitude*. Many of the stories follow the Lethemesque formula of taking a familiar, clichéd narrative structure and adding an unexpected element or two to completely throw the reader for a loop. In it, he mixes high and low culture, pop and elitist discourses, and comes up with a blend of literary fiction that is both accessible and highly readable.

The stories in *Men and Cartoons* are fairly diverse, though most are at least marginally connected to the world of cartoons and superheroes. There's a story about a magical spray that reveals lost things, one about a chance encounter between two people who think they know each other but don't and a story about a not-too-distant future in which the roads are snarled in a never-ending traffic jam on the other side of the One-Way Permeable Barrier.

REVUE **BOOKS**

Though there are a full nine stories within this book's slender 176-page frame, only a few of them stand out. "The Dystopianist, Thinking of His Rival, Is Interrupted by a Knock on the Door" revolves around a cartoonish supervillain's dark, dumb and implausible plans for destroying a world full of bumbling utopians. (He attempts to spread unhappiness and despair to the utopian public by way of stories published in utopian magazines, including a bizarre tale about suicidal sheep.) In "The Glasses," a man walks into an eyeglasses shop, complaining that his new glasses are broken. The optometrists accuse the man of touching the lenses as he puts the glasses on, obscuring his vision by leaving dirty smudges on the glass. They argue relentlessly, and it all somehow degenerates into a good optometrist/bad optometrist routine, while poking fun at larger issues of racial stereotypes, profiling and the like. It reads like a joke, although there's never really any punchline.

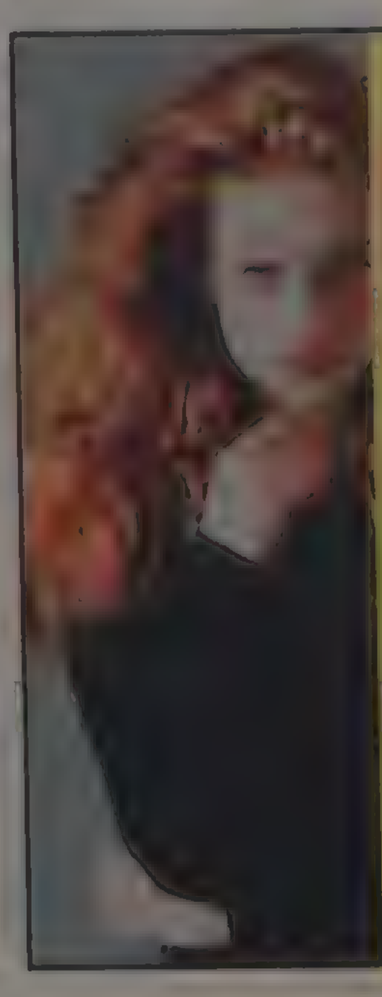


BY FAR THE BEST OF THE LOT, however, is "Super Goat Man," which follows the life of a discarded, out-of-work superhero who lives in the same hippie-infested commune as the family of the narrator. Lethem twists reality in a way that allows superheroes to exist, but with one important catch: they have to be just like normal people, with normal lives, normal problems, etc. (Picture *The Incredibles* crossed with Harvey Pekar.) As Super Goat Man grows older, has his comic book cancelled, and has to cope with the public perception that his superpowers are largely banal and unexciting, he falls back on his previous life in the academic world, teaching at a New Hampshire college. The magic of this story is in the interactions between the characters—the fact that nobody questions the accepted truth that superheroes exist, and that Super Goat Man eventually passes his best-before date, just like the rest of us.

But too many of the stories aren't memorable enough—they seem more like springboards for larger, better pieces than self-contained imaginative experiences. *Men and Cartoons,* however, feels like a collection of half-completed sketches, instead of the fully pencilled, inked and coloured worlds Lethem's novels allow you to explore.

MEN AND CARTOONS
By Jonathan Lethem • Doubleday • 176 pp. • $27.95







hellomoto.com

MOTOROLA

HIFI MOTO

mp3 player/ringtones
speakerphone
1.3 megapixel camera
video capture/playback
260k colour screen
name/number dial with voice commands
Bluetooth® wireless
removable memory

all screen images simulated

MOTOROLA and the Stylized M Logo are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. The Bluetooth trademarks are owned by their proprietor and used by Motorola, Inc. under license. © Motorola, Inc. 2004

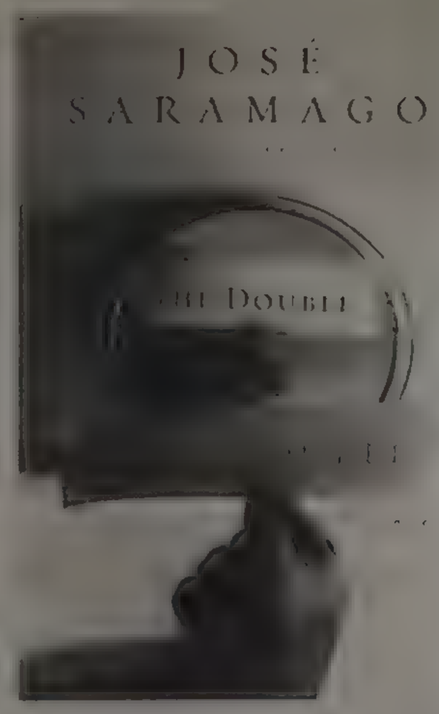




The doppelgänger's all here

In his latest novel, José Saramago doubles his hero, doubles your fun

BY JOSEF BRAUN



With the distinctive prose of Portuguese novelist José Saramago—those sentences that string together reams of unpunctuated dialogue, those multi-page paragraphs that refuse to cease until the issue at hand has been explored from multiple angles and reached its full resolution—there is always that pleasant surprise when the reader finds himself eagerly chugging ahead, locked into the momentum of it all. Sometimes it takes a few pages, other times a few dozen, but there is something inherently inviting in Saramago's stubborn approach to storytelling that inevitably takes what should be hopelessly mannered and make it seem natural. What initially seems over-deliberated becomes transporting.

I don't know if it's just practice on my part (I've read about half of his translated work), but with ***The Double***, Saramago's latest, I accomplished this mental transition more easily than ever. I'm guessing that my effortless surrender to Saramago's style this time around might have something to do with how perfectly matched it is to the novel's central conflict, in which a quiet, unhappy history teacher with the slightly ridiculous name of Tertuliano Máximo Alfonso discovers that his exact double not only exists, but lives in the same city as he. Doubles in various forms are strewn throughout this tale, and one in particular seems born right out of Saramago's stylistic quirks: Tertuliano has frequent conversations with a second voice Saramago identifies as Tertuliano's "common sense," and their voices intermingle so fluidly that we often lose track of who is speaking—which, in this case at least, is exactly the effect the novel demands.

Doubles, duplicates or doppelgängers tend to inspire fear and narcissistic fixation in equal measure. For Tertuliano, the discovery of his exact double becomes an obsession not only because of the deeply troubling knowledge that he's not the sole owner of his likeness, a right everyone save a few human oddities seems entitled to, but because this double gives renewed meaning to his drearily routine life: the boring job, boring girlfriend, boring hobbies that have ceased to engage him. But Tertuliano's innate cowardice also means that the further he goes in confronting his double, the less able he is to hold onto these basic elements that give one's life and identity some stability. Once Tertuliano encounters his twin (who turns out, appropriately enough, to be an actor), neither seems able to pass a moment comfortably knowing that this extra self is out there. Each begins their story with some sense of free will, but the game they engage in, with all its sinister ramifications, finally leaves them slaves to a darker destiny that's ultimately out of their hands, with Saramago's tone gradually likening itself to that of Edgar Allan Poe.

IN HIS *GUARDIAN* REVIEW of *The Double*, Alberto Manguel—who is, to be certain, a much, much, much more well-read critic than I (seems you can't place enough "much"es before this particular adjective when concerning the famously literate Manguel)—notes a disappointing lack of freshness to what Saramago brings to the age-old doppelgänger myth, one explored by the likes of Dostoyevsky and Stevenson. My response was precisely the opposite; the narrative's twists and its thematic resonance caught me utterly off-guard.

I wonder if Manguel's criticism doesn't have something to do with the expectations one brings to Saramago's novels, which, especially of late, seem on one level to continually plumb myth for allegory's sake. Yet what I find most rewarding in reading Saramago's stories is the very manner in which he continually evades straight allegory, the way his highly individual sense of history, politics and human nature always move beyond the broad, clean lines of allegory and social commentary and slip into strange and ever-remoter regions. "The fictional character is the master," Saramago has said, "the writer his apprentice." Reading the chilling conclusion to *The Double* (with its echoes of Julio Cortázar's fateful circles), I think you'll find that the paths Saramago is willing to follow can be murky and rewarding indeed.

THE DOUBLE
By José Saramago • Translated by Margaret Jull Costa • Harcourt • 324 pp. • $35







A panoramic view

Impressively vast Panoramic Mountain Resort a perfect holiday ski destination

By COLIN CATHREA

If you are looking for a destination for Christmas skiing and boarding, the pickings are a little slim this year, but fortunately, resorts closer to Edmonton are currently the best in Canada. Just six or seven hours away is Panorama Mountain Resort; they had snow this week, and most of the mountain is open. I got rained on opening day, but they've had early season wet snow that packed down and provided a good base that keeps getting a series of nice little dumps, adding up to some pretty decent conditions.

This resort keeps getting bigger and bigger, but just who is feeding Panorama all of these growth hormones? It's Intrawest, the biggest ski area developer in North America. Bigger and better every year, this behemoth area is beginning to rival the Whistlers and Vails of the world. Not only do you get windburn from screaming down the mountain, but with the addition of another high-speed quad, it's a burner to the top.

When I started skiing at Panorama, a wooden tower T-bar was your only way up. Over the years, steady and well-thought-out upgrades not only provided better access to the mountain, but also opened up new terrain that consistently impressed its patrons. When you go to some ski areas, it's not too difficult to envision what the potential expansion terrain would be like. Panorama was a more difficult call for me, but I am consistently impressed with every new area they open. I don't think even they envisioned how Taynton Bowl would scramble the heads of nearly every powder-hungry hound that ventured over to its chutes, glades, and bowls.

PRIME SPOT

I DID THINK it was dumb how you had to walk up to the Top of the World T-bar when you got off the Champagne Quad chair. Now, a gentle glide down to the new Summit Quad is not only easier, but it takes no time at all and you are at the top of the mountain with an elevation of 2,400 metres. This gives you a vertical drop of 1,220 metres, one of the largest in North America. The ski and board terrain, meanwhile, is mixed and diverse. There are better wide-open cruisers here than anywhere I've skied. The front side's main runs, like Roller Coaster and Picture Perfect, are the kind of runs that can get you in trouble from the Ski Patrol. After a rather "quick" smoker down Millennium, the raised eyebrow and shaken finger of said patrol was enough to tell me to slow it down.

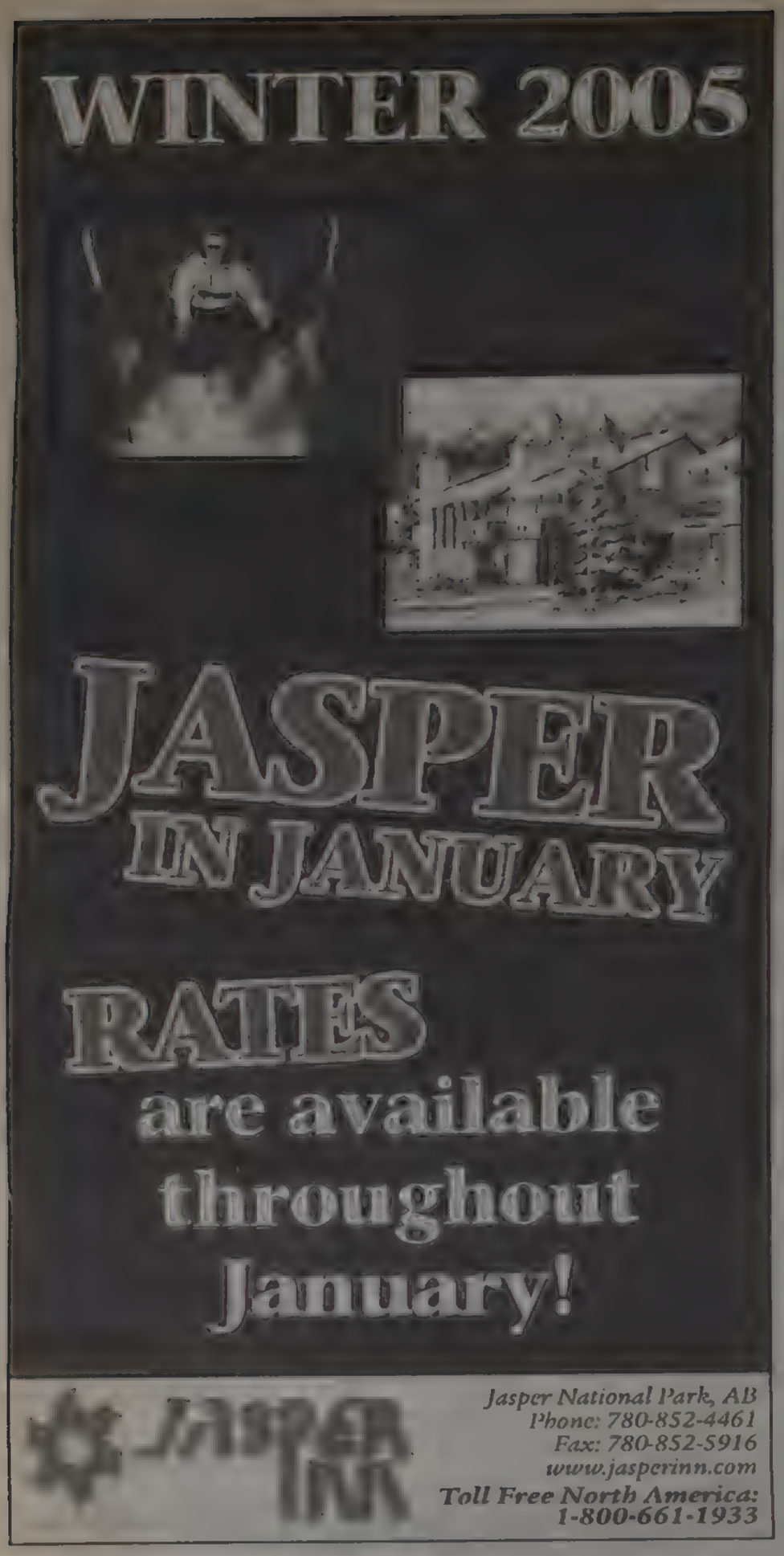
This is a mountain that you ski dependent on the snow and weather conditions. If it has snowed within the last week or so, exploring the glades and back bowls is a good bet. Below the Summit quad, you can find a gladed set of bowls that can hold freshies for days after a dump. Same with Taynton Bowl. Keeping to the edge of the area boundary will put you down into the Founders Ridge section of the mountain. I'm not going to dissect the entire area, because it's too big, but let me say you can spend days here and still find new terrain. And when it snows, oh man!

As with most all resorts these days, a big terrain park and half pipe are kept in top form. Keep in mind, this is an area that has been making snow for a long time, and they're good at it. It's stockpiled and moved around, so early season and spring conditions are usually good. Located right in the village, the SOS school of skiing and snowboarding is one of the best and most innovative schools in the world. It's owned and operated by Heather and Don Bilodeau, instructional editors for Ski Canada magazine, and past Interski Team members representing Canada in Europe and Japan. I have taken brush-up lessons from Don many times and his insight is amazing. If you're feeling a little off your game, take a lesson.

A "SKI TO YOUR DOOR" operation, accommodations run the gamut from five- to three-star digs. Most of my stays of late have been down at the Toby Creek Lodge; you need to call the resort to find out about the ski and stay packages they offer, though more often than not, you can stay and ski three nights for under $170 per person. I pampered myself with one night at the Panorama Springs and had to be dragged out kicking and screaming.

We have always had good party experiences. I especially remember the year we met Becky and Fluffy, the aerobics instructors from Grand Prairie (but I digress) and the Crazy Horse Saloon is always rocking. The type of food is similar to the accommodations, and there are some good deals to be had if you look around, but keep in mind that there are lots of condos that have kitchenettes and there's a grocery store in the village.

Just down the valley, a new monster is being created, as recently the Jumbo Glacier Resort Company has announced that it has the provincial government's approval to go forth and build a year-round, high-altitude glacier-skiing operation just up the valley from Panorama. Not everyone is happy about this announcement; grizzly bear proponents have battled hard to keep development within the valley, and RK Heli-Ski, based at Panorama, isn't exactly jumping for joy as the resort will eat up a good chunk of their best terrain. For the rest of us, this development will allow *year-round* skiing and boarding just six hours from home. The National Ski Team has been using the Jumbo Glacier for summer training for years. I haven't heard of any team members becoming Grizzly snacks.



board zone

BY JAMES RADKE

Paying the price

How much do snowboards cost? I'm glad you asked. As with most every other activity, it's always best to try it out before rushing to the local snowboard shop to load up on brand new gear, so if you're planning on hitting the slopes for a little snowboarding for the first time, it's wisest to rent equipment. Most mountains have special beginner packages that include a board, boots, bindings, lift ticket and group lesson.

One such beginner package is available at Sunshine Village and called Discover Snowboarding. It's pretty standard as far as first-timer programs go. For $130 you get everything mentioned above—throw in a cheap lunch and that's a $140 first day. But bear in mind that renting should be for beginners and beginners only; anyone serious about snowboarding needs to buy their own equipment, which is where things can get a little more costly. The breakdown from a typical shopping spree at a local board shop could easily run you over a grand just for gear; expect to pay around $900 for your board (the Salomon "Link" All Mountain with Salomon SP3 Bindings is a good investment) and another $350 or so for a goo pair of boots.

But that doesn't including having the right kind of clothes, and in snowboarding it's pretty important to have the right stuff. It may not seem absolutely necessary, but quality body covering comes in handy if you're interested in staying warm, dry, and looking cool. On the clothing end of things, you'll need a jacket ($300-400), pants ($260-350), synthetic underwear and socks ($100), as well as gloves, a toque and a good set of goggles ($200)—that's another $700-900 hit on the old Visa card, but you're pretty much set to ride for the next few years.

After these initial purchases, all that's left are the lift passes. Seasons passes at most resorts run about $1000, plus or minus a few hundred clams, depending on which mountain you choose to ride. Day passes run about $40 a day, give or take a couple bucks and another $40 for a fill up on the old lemon. There certainly are more expensive ways to spend your winters, but I can't think of anything that's as much fun.



ski tips

BY COLIN CATHREA

Try something new

I love to experiment. Since I have been skiing and boarding for many years, I'm constantly looking for something new to play around with. Here are just two of my new favourites.

Shaped skis allow for radical banked turns where you can reach over and "pet the corduroy." While that may sound somewhat perverse, corduroy is what we call the nicely groomed snow that has the little grooves left by the snowcat's rear paddle. This snow is perfect for testing the limits of carving. I once borrowed a pair of Salomon "Axe Cleavers" from Brian Rode up at Marmot. They were around 100-centimetres long and had a base-plate that elevated my boot about three inches over the ski. What a blast! I could load those things up so much that I was putting my hand down on the snow through the whole turn. I tossed my poles, and before I knew it my legs were aching because of the incredible weight I was able to lay into the turns.

If you crank a turn over this far, you put about 10 times your body weight on edge. You have to keep in mind that if and when you lose that edge the result is usually a full and complete blowout, like when an F1 car looses grip. Try to use your hips to get a full angulation and reach over with the hand on the inside of the turn. Open your stance, reach out for the snow and feel the rush. A pitch like Show Off or Highway 16 at Marmot is perfect for corduroy carving. Keep practicing. Do it under the chairlift, and when you're going back up, look at the four-inch gouges you've left in the snow. Cool Huh?

Number two on our list of new and exciting things are high-speed powder turns. I think snowboarders were the first ones who realized what a rush flying down untracked terrain is. I thought it would be a waste of good snow until I gave it a shot. Freeride skiers are tearing up new radical lines everywhere you go. When skiing normal powder turns, you do not need to sit back; it's simply a matter of unweighting the skis more. With high-speed powder turns, you should sit back ever so slightly and let'er rip. It's a good idea to have a spotter, as a fall at high speed can leave you looking for released skis all afternoon. I lost a ski at Fernie that was found three months later in April.

These are definitely adrenaline-releasing activities, and injuries may occur. But hey, it's good to know your limitations.





It's a most wonderful time for some gear

Last-minute gift ideas for your snow-sport lovin' sweethearts

BY CHRISTIE SCHULTZ

You may only have a day or so left, but shopping for a skier or boarder on your list should be easy. With this handy guide, no one on your list will be left out in the cold on Christmas morning.

The Buzzline insulated coffee/tea press is available at Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) for $24. It's an insulated mug that makes coffee and tea like a French press. No muss, no fuss, and your brew stays warm for ages.

MEC's Mountain Fountain Standard H20 system is a four-litre pack which carries a two-litre Platypus water bag with bite hose. For $24, the pack will keep a skier hydrated all day while toting some Clif bars, a wallet and an extra shirt. It fits under a jacket and doesn't make using a ski lift difficult. Water will only stay wet until about –12 C without an insulation set—so MEC also offers a hose cover for $19.50, and a flip-off bite valve shell for $6.50.

GIFT GUIDE

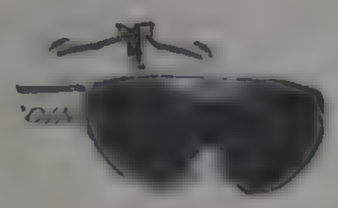
Want to impress your friends? Try the G-String day pack from MEC for $18. It holds your skis together snuggly and allows you to pack them on your back. Great, lightweight trick for bootpacking to offpiste runs or just lugging your boards around.

Get some Dope Grip Tape for anyone who hates using klister or having to reapply wax every hour on really abrasive snow. Just stick on some grip and go. The product grips from 5 to –20 C in the right conditions, which means that it's a one-stop solution to crappy snow days. Retails for $12.50 at most stores.

Easy Wax Liquid Glider is like liquid shoe polish in consistency and even has a similar built-in applicator on the bottle. Just wipe, let dry and go. Most stores carry it at $15. In the same vein, Swix has a glide wax in the consistency of shoe polish. It's super easy to apply, and the formula stays put well in warmer weather. Retails for $12.50 at most stores.

In the feet department, the Euro Sock Micro Supreme has a stay-put fit, plenty of warmth and pillow-soft cushioning. It's $27.95 and Jodi at Skier's Sportshop swears by this comfy sock. SmartWool's ski sock is made of soft, non-prickly Merino wool. This sock has a medium profile, shin cushioning and an arch and heel that sticks to a foot's profile. The sock retails around $30 for those who like natural fabrics and is available at Totem Outfitters. Sole custom footbeds are also awesome—show me a skier with happy feet and I'll show you someone wearing an orthotic. No money for professionally made orthotics? Try these comfy, mould-it-yourself beds. They're $37.50 at Totem Outfitters.





SKIERS CAN REST ASSURED that their hands are in good gloves with Auclair; try some retro-styled black and whites in leather/fleece for around $17. They're great quality for the price. Move up to softer and more durable leather for around $34 at most ski shops.

Foggy, iced goggles are passé and the sign of a cheapskate. If you're cheap or lose a lot of goggles and want a good buy, try Gordini's Sure Shot goggles for $29 from MEC. They look good, fit even small faces well and have double lenses and venting that doesn't get crushed against your face. Moving up to a better goggle is the Bolle Krait goggle for $64 with lots of plush cushion and super venting. Since it's Bolle, the lens is good quality. At the top of the heap is Smith's Triad goggle for $113. It has a great fit for big faces, Smith's always-pleasing look, a truly huge field of vision that puts other goggles to shame and great visual acuity.

Silk undershirts are classics because they handle all activities and weather conditions, and don't smell up like some fabrics. They have a nice feel under clothes and in the sheets. MEC's silk crew undershirt is $39.

Kuu base cleaner is one of few bio-friendly, citrus based cleaners on the market and it takes gunk and wax off your kick zone. A secret benefit is that it removes stains from many materials and erases traces of duct tape. A all-around cleaner for around $12.50.

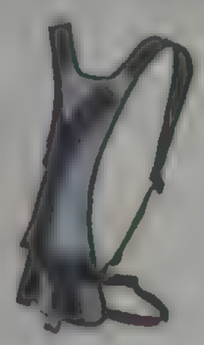
The DMT Diamond Stone will let you deburr your own ski and board edges with a handy diamond stone that you can stash in your boot bag. It's $19 from Fritz's. While doing that, you might as well wax your own skis with quality melt-on alpine wax, $18. The savings really add up throughout the season.

Every skier appreciates having an extra pair of inexpensive sunglasses that look good and offer UVA/UVB protection. Luckily, every ski shop offers cheapies for $15-$40.

FOR SERIOUS NORDIC SKIERS who like to glide, a ski form is indispensable for a proper hot waxing. Fast Trax offers sturdy wood forms that mount to a table or counter for $89.

Cheap mountain skiing for Edmontonians is all wrapped up in Marmot's ski card for $65. Available at most ski shops, the card gives free days of skiing, lodging and rental discounts to users. A Lake Louise card is available for the same price for those who like to ski down south.





A Therm-ic glove/boot dryer makes a great ski gift for the whole family. It's a portable dryer that sticks directly into gloves and boots, making short work of a mess of wet gear. Its compact size makes it great for trips to the mountain. It's $90 at Skier's.

The Yearbook DVD, a ski movie by Steve Winter, Murray Wais and Scott Gaffney, is such a perennial favourite that Skier's Sportshop has had to restock every month. It you can't be on the slopes, you might as well be watching someone who is. This flick has a lot of great moves for those looking to get fancy. It's $45.

MEC Powder Mitts are given extra warmth and protection from water in the spots where you're most likely to feel the cold. When a mitt's liner stays dry, fingers stay warm—even on the chairlift. At $56, these mitts are a best buy and a safe bet for hill-goers.



The EASYRIDER Condition Report

LOCAL:

Rabbitt Hill - 50cm base, 12cm new snow, 7 lifts and all runs open
Snow Valley - 60cm base, 5cm new snow, all lifts and runs open

ALBERTA:

Castle Mtn - 18-140cm base, opening tba
Can. Olympic Park - 80cm base
Fortress - opening tba
Lake Louise - 65-117cm base, 2cm nw snow, all lifts and 98 runs open,
Marmot Basin - 70cm base, 2cm new snow, all lifts and 58 runs open
Mt. Norquay - 60-105cm base, 1cm new snow, 4 lifts ad 14 runs open
Nakiska - 59-81cm base, 5 lifts and 18 runs open
Sunshine - 114cm base, 1cm new snow, all lifts and 83 runs open
Tawatinaw Valley - 2cm new snow, all runs open

B.C.:

Apex - 89cm base, 7cm new snow
Big White - 156cm base, 2cm new snow, 13 lifts and 112 runs open
Crystal Mtn - 100cm base, 15cm new snow, 4 lifts and 31 runs open
Fernie - 122cm base, 9 lifts and 45 runs open
Fairmont - 18cm new snow
Kicking Horse - 99cm base, 2cm new snow, 60% of terrain open
Kimberley - 45cm base, 3 lifts and 4 runs open, reduced rates in effect
Mt. Washington - 44cm base
Panorama - 82cm base, 14cm new snow, 8 lifts and 45 runs open
Powder King - 130cm base, 2 lifts and 24 runs open
Powder Springs - 77-195cm base, 10-22cm new snow, all lifts open
Red Mtn - 118cm base
Silver Star - 142cm base,1cm new snow
Sun Peaks - 108cm base, 3cm new snow, 99% fully open
Whistler Blackcomb - 100cm base, 24 Whistler runs open, 46 Blackcomb runs open
Whitewater - 155cm base, 1cm new snow

The US of A:

Big Mtn - 30-134cm base, 3cm new snow, 6 lifts and 75 runs open
Big Sky - 63 105cm base, 12cm new snow, 14 lifts open
49 Degrees - 30cm base depth, 4 lifts and 28 runs open
Great Divide Ski Area - 25-50cm base, 12cm new snow
Lookout Pass - 50cm base depth, 8cm new snow, 2 lifts and 18 runs open
Mt. Spokane - 25cm base depth, 3 lifts and 15 runs open
Schweitzer Mtn - 60cm base, 20 runs open
Silver Mtn - 50cm new snow, 5cm new snow, 4 lifts and 20 runs open
Sun Valley - 75-130cm base

KICKING HORSE MOUNTAIN RESORT
www.kickinghorseresort.com
1 800 SKI-KICK

Whitewater
WINTER RESORT • NELSON, BC
Pure, Simple & Real... DEEP
INFO:1.800.666.9420

KICKING HORSE SKI & STAY PACKAGE
FROM $81.20 /PERSON
COMFORT & FUN!!!
Daily Ski Shuttle available upon request
New Kitchen suites, Pool,Waterslide,
Hot Tub, Sauna & Ski Shuttle. Golden, BC

Ski BANFF @NORQUAY
HOUR
Toll Free 1-866-Go4-Snow
WWW.BANFFNORQUAY.COM

HEY SNOW RESORTS
YOU CAN HAVE THIS SPACE
EVERY WEEK FOR PEANUTS!!*

panorama
1-800-661-1919
www.panoramaresort.com

EASYRIDER SNOWBOARDS
4211-106 St. 413-4554
Edmonton, Alberta
www.TheEasyRider.com



Harper's callin'

All signs point to a banner year at out-of-the-way Harper Mountain

By STEWART DUNCAN

While thousands come from far afield to ski at Sun Peaks Resort, more than a few are beginning to take advantage of the proximity and low prices of Harper Mountain, 25 minutes northeast of Kamloops.

Families flock to the family-owned and-operated Harper not just for skiing, boarding and first-rate lessons, but also for its toboggan and sled run, enlarged tube park with handle tow (new this year), the outdoor skating rink with a bonfire and the casual, family atmosphere. With improved runs, roadways and parking lots that were completed this fall, visitors to Harper can expect an even better ski and snowboard experience.

The top of Harper Mountain is a relatively low 1,524 metres (5,000 feet), giving it the milder climate preferred by fairweather skiers. Still, it gets about four metres (13 feet) of mostly powder snow, so the skiing is good from late December to mid-March. From then to April is dicey, depending on how early spring hits the area. Being lower than major ski resorts makes it a lot more susceptible to warmer weather, but that's the risk of going into business with Mother Nature.

Last year, however, she was a great partner, unleashing a nasty north wind in October that blew down swaths of forest and smothered the mountain with deep, fresh powder in November. This year, the hill was operational by December 11, well before the expected opening for Christmas break. Lots of snow had fallen, and a lot of that subsequently melted and froze, making some tough opening-day skiing in early morning. Still, it was a beautiful, sunny day, and once the snow softened up, it was what makes skiing in the B.C. interior so worth the drive.

SLOPES

THE BIG BLOWDOWN of 2003 led to the most significant changes since Harper opened more than 30 years ago. Harper president and operations manager Ed Daburger said this month that last year's blowdown was fairly high on the mountain on north-facing slopes, which means the new runs they've created where thick forest once stood will get and hold plenty of snow. The upper part of Big Bend, which at 366 metres (1,200 feet) is the hill's longest run, is twice as wide, with a new path and large bowl—all groomable.

Boarders and skiers can now make their own routes and easily move back and forth between blue-square and black-diamond action. Another popu-

lar run called Bushwhacker, which has been a narrow, twisty route through the forest, is now wide open and much more accessible. Snowboarders are particularly fond of it for all the small jumps they encounter, but before this season, a level access route made it awkward to get to. The problem has since been rectified.

A new connecting route from the top of the Huser triple chair to the top of the T-bar has been cut through the trees, making the top of the mountain much more amenable to novices. It's a welcome change for snowboarders who didn't like the hop-and-crawl section of upper Midway, which was previously the only way to access the top of the T-bar and have easier runs back to base.

Harper Mountain is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and offers night skiing on the T-bar from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Wednesday to Friday. With a base elevation of 1,100 metres (3,600 feet), Harper has a vertical drop of 427 metres (1,400 feet), which makes it small by Rocky Mountain standards, but the variety of terrain covering 122 hectares (400 acres) is impressive. Half of the 16 runs are intermediate, with the other half evenly divided between advanced and easy. Three lifts access them, including the triple chair, a T-bar and a handle tow on the bunny hill. Together, they move 3,600 skiers per hour, with lineups only on the busiest days.

FOR ALL THE WORK that has been done for this ski season, there is more in store for the 2005/06 ski season. There are still a few stacks of logs from the blowdown that are out of the way but not yet gone. While just a small percentage of all the downed trees, they offer a glimpse of the immensity of the wind damage. Other improvements on steep slopes are in the works but couldn't be completed before the hill opened. "It depends on the weather," said Daburger. "If it's too wet, we can't do it because it's quite steep. Next year for sure."

On the T-bar side, the hills were unaffected by the blowdown but not by snowboarders, whose feedback made a significant difference. "We took out two of the less popular jumps in the terrain park and made one that I think will be popular," said Daburger. "It has a much larger, longer, steeper landing area. The takeoff is smaller but the landing is bigger. That's what I was getting from the snowboarders.

"I try to make their dreams reality," he added with a laugh. "We also put a new stereo in the lodge for more ambiance, with a satellite dish for music options and new outdoor speakers. It just provides some music around the hill. You've gotta play the crowd." ⓥ





ED'S SK8 SUPPLY
PH: 413.6050
out of town 1.866.413.6050
MON-WED 12-6, THU 12-8, FRI 12-6
SAT 10-6, SUN 12-4
15107 STONY PLAIN RD.

ALL BUTTON UP SHIRTS $49.00
HUGE SELECTION OF DISCOUNT SHOES
ES, ETNIES, EMERICA, CIRCA
FOUR TEES FOR $99.00
VHS SK8 VIDEOS 40%OFF
FROM SUN DEC 26TH TO SUN JAN 2ND
BOXING WEEK SALE!
BLANK WHEELS 54mm $18.00 /SET
OUTER WEAR UP TO 60%OFF
LARGE GROUP OF HOODIES 2 FOR 1
MEDIA DECKS REG $85.00 NOW $49.00

four rooms
restaurant and lounge
102 ave. - 100a st.
137 edmonton city centre east
426-4767

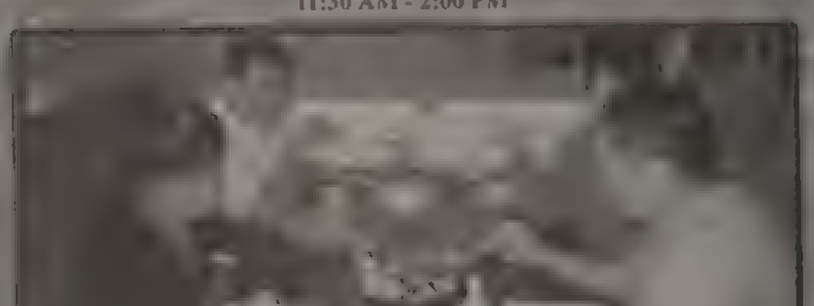
DOWNTOWN JAZZ

dec 23 rhonda withnell

dec 29 & 30 shucker

GINSENG RESTAURANT
9261-34 Avenue
450-3330
Daily 5:00 pm 10:00 pm
M-F 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Weekend Reservations Recommended

EDMONTONS MOST UNIQUE KOREAN CUISINE
• SPECIAL LUNCH BUFFET •
25 DIFFERENT DISHES OFFERED
MON - FRI / only $10.95
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM



• EVENING B.B.Q. BUFFET •
EVERYDAY 5-10PM / $19.95
5th Anniversary Celebration Starting November 4th!
"Thanks for your business over the last 5 years!"
ENTER TO WIN
(lots of great prizes!)
1st prize is round trip tickets for 2 to Korea (or $2000 cash)
ENTER NOV. 4, 2004 - JAN. 30, 2005
DRAW DATE JAN. 31, 2005

DISH



Paintin' the town brown

A world of chocolate artistry is waiting to be devoured at West Ed's Death By Chocolate

BY CHRISTOPHER THRALL

"A decadent chocolate cake surrounded by pure white chocolate sauce with dark chocolate stars, two mounds of chocolate mousse and a scoop of chocolate ice cream. The crowning glory is a Callebaut pure white chocolate tower," was one item's description on **Death by Chocolate**'s menu; it was at this moment that it occurred to me that I love my job.

My wife and I were seated in the Mall overlooking Bourbon Street, watching the teeming masses of increasingly desperate Christmas shoppers; I had finally consented to both my beloved's sweet tooth and the perpetual popularity of this den of iniquity, and with *Vue*'s upcoming "Best Of" issue looming large in my mind, I knew I couldn't honestly recommend a Best Place for Dessert without trying this Mecca for chocoholics. To us, Death by Chocolate was a couple of refrigerated cabinets in the Mall that we sprinted past with our eyes averted in order to avoid being drawn into a high-calorie vortex of sinful sweets. Gazing around the café area, however, I saw that Death by Chocolate is about more than simply cavities and pounds; it's a haven from the punishing lights and hectic pace of the West Edmonton Shrine to Consumerism. It is about exquisite indulgence. It is sheer artistry.

Our dark wood table sat in an elegant space which muffled the cacophony of the sparkly, plastic Mall a few steps away. The full-colour, glossy menu was an absolute delight; page after page of superb dessert creations were lavishly described and accompanied by tantalizing photographs. Good for a

DESSERTS

pause and a chuckle were Joseph's Technicolour Dream Cake and The Dessert Formerly Known as Prince, with that goofy symbol traced out in dark chocolate. I loved the café's inclusion of fresh Belgian waffles, but who was kidding who? I knew what I wanted. "A decadent chocolate cake surrounded by pure white chocolate sauce...."

MY WIFE AND I were also dying for a glass of water. Reading about the rich desserts was making us thirstier and thirstier, but service was nowhere to be seen. When the waitress did arrive and take our order—the eponymous Death by Chocolate for me ($11.95), a Tang-Talizer for my bride ($7.95) and eggnog lattés for us both ($4.10 apiece)—she needed a couple of reminders before ponying up the agua. The eggnogs came quickly and we again admired an artist's attention to detail: the tall mugs crowned with froth and sprinkled with nutmeg were the same shade of blue as the light fixtures. Both of us enjoyed the festive flavour, though the absence of rum in the eggnog was felt, as we watched the passersby from our perch above the crowd.

Bravo, anonymous siren who assembled our works of art. Serious kudos go to the chocolatier who conceived of them. To balance the dark chocolate intensity of my choice, my wife had decided on French vanilla ice cream coated in white chocolate mousse, draped with thick curls of solid white chocolate and ringed with segments of orange, grapefruit and lime. Her Tang-Talizer was a symphony in citrus and white chocolate, complementing my Death by Chocolate perfectly. Not that she got to have much. My moist cake, nowhere near as heavy as I had feared, sat next to a pile of wild berries. In fact, while its description threatened to overwhelm the palate with its richness, every part was much lighter than expected and orchestrated into a fine balance. If I had to choose a favourite out of the scrumptious array, it would have to be the mousse's darkly sensual flavour.

Momentum and sheer delight carried us most of the way through our magnificent desserts. When it became obvious we weren't going to manage to finish, however, bundling our remainders into a clear take-out container with fresh dollops of mousse was a nice touch. Tax and tip put us over $30, which is steep for dessert and coffee, but compared to any other sculpture of pure ambrosia delivered on demand, the price is more than reasonable. Wading through the tears of my dentist and my dietician, I shall return!

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE
1676 West Edmonton Mall • 486-2201



Sailing into Arbour

Raspberry butter and river valley views make at Rutherford House a must-see

BY IAIN ILICH

I first discovered the charms of **The Arbour Restaurant**—the café nestled within the lovely old walls of Rutherford House—near the end of my studies at the University of Alberta. I had seen it from the pedways between the Tory building, HUB Mall, and the humanities centre for several years before I finally ventured into the warm, pleasant, doilied world inside. But it was on my very first visit, and within three bites of a ludicrously delicious fresh-baked scone slathered in their sweet, creamy raspberry butter, that I knew I'd fallen in love.

Not long thereafter, I finished my degree, and now only rarely manage a visit during their unfortunately limited opening hours. Due to the size of their tiny dining room, getting a table isn't always easy, and turning up without a reservation (on weekends in particular) is often an exercise in disappointment. Though I'd tried repeatedly to introduce my wife to The Arbour, our lack of reservations denied us a table every time. This time around, we'd planned ahead, called before leaving the house, and were rewarded with a nice little table for two.

The inside of Rutherford House looks mostly like what you'd expect it to: old, lots of brick, dainty, a bit stuffy and entirely fit to be the residence of a former premier of the province (which it was, hence the Rutherford in Rutherford House). While there are tours of the entire building available for a small admission fee, we were hungry enough to head directly for the dining area, which in itself has quite a lovely olden-times feel to it.

We knew what we wanted almost as soon as we took our seats. I had already recommended the Garneau Sandwich, a poached chicken breast under a layer of curried mango chutney, served on either a bap or a baguette ($9) for my wife, which, due to the mango component, she was particularly enthusiastic about. I, on the other hand, debated between the

DAINTY

roasted-vegetable sandwich and the Chancellor's Garden Chili, a bean-filled vegetarian chili with sour cream and grated cheddar on top, eventually settling on the chili ($8). Both dishes come with a salad, but mine also came with one of their legendary scones on the side (lucky me!). To drink, I picked an iced tea, while my wife chose a bottle of old-timey Stewart's Orange Cream Soda, as her habitual Sprite was unavailable.

DONE ORDERING, we sat back to discuss the sorts of things that one must discuss in a tearoom setting, waiting happily while they prepared our meals in an unseen kitchen; we had barely progressed past light chitchat when our stylishly-presented plates were delivered. I took a quick taste of my chili, nearly scorched my tongue (it was hot-hot, not spicy-hot), and decided to start with the salad. It was pleasant enough, with fresh, crunchy greens, and a homestyle vinaigrette. While working through my pile of roughage, I watched as my wife savoured her baguette sandwich full of chicken, lettuce, mayo and the delightful curried mango chutney. She seemed to be enjoying it, and told me as much between mouthfuls. After finishing the salad, the chili had cooled down enough to make eating it possible. Like any good vegetarian chili, is wasn't just a meatless version of a meaty chili recipe: the beans were perfectly cooked, the tomato-based sauce was competently spiced, and the sour cream and cheddar provided just the counterbalance to the slightly tart sauce. The portions were just right, leaving us almost fully packed. But we weren't finished yet. Oh, no.

Having lunch at The Arbour is nice enough, but it's their dessert and tea offerings that are invariably the highlight of any trip. My wife simply *needed* to try their delicious scones and raspberry butter, so we ordered an Afternoon Scone Plate ($10 for two people), which includes two scones, an assortment of fresh fruit and a large pot of tea (we picked their Rutherford House Blend, a basic black tea with light Earl Grey overtones). Oh, and the raspberry butter. One mustn't forget the raspberry butter.

Our server returned quickly with our plate of goodies, and we promptly set about submerging our scones, which were lightly dusted with icing sugar, under a generous helping of raspberry butter. The scones, while not hot, were at least slightly warm, allowing the creamy raspberry butter to partially melt before being eaten. The rich, sweet combination of raspberries and butter was *so* much greater than the sum of its parts, and it's this thick, fantastic spread that will keep me coming back to Rutherford House, even if I have to reserve a table in advance.

After the last drop had been delicately sipped from our elegant cups, our server delivered our wonderfully pleasant surprise of a bill: A mere $31.50 for all of that lovely food and tea, consumed in an upright, respectable environment. Our well-appointed, high-society style luncheon hadn't come with a Rolls Royce price tag, after all. Hurrah, I say. Hurrah.

THE ARBOUR RESTAURANT
11153 Saskatchewan Dr • 422-2697

EST. 1998 O'Byrne's Irish Pub
SEASON'S GREETINGS
from all of us at O'BYRNE'S!
NEW YEAR'S EVE
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
CALL 414-6766 FOR INFO
MON. DEC 27
One Night Only....
TURBINADO
The Reunion 9:30pm - No cover
THURS. DEC 30
MOURNING WOOD
9:30pm - No cover
10616-82 AVE. 414-6766 WWW.OBYRNES.COM

STEEPS
UNWIND OVER THE HOLIDAYS AT STEEPS TEA LOUNGE
EXPERIENCE EDMONTON'S FINEST TEA & CHAI
190 varieties of black, white, green, oolong, herbal and fruit teas
Friendly and knowledgable staff • Warm relaxing atmosphere
Premium cookies, squares & desserts • Light savory alternatives
Tea brewing and related merchandise • To go service • Open late
GLENORA 12411 STONY PLAIN ROAD TEL 488-1505
COLLEGE PLAZA 11116-82 AVENUE • TEL 988-2386
SHERWOOD PARK 2024 SHERWOOD DRIVE TEL 416-0515

DISH WEEKLY

LEGEND	
Price per person, before tax and tip	
$	— Less than $10
$$	— $10 to $20
$$$	— $20 to $30
$$$$	— $30 and up.

LA SPIGA
10133-125 St • 482-3100
Some preliminary online research had told us the dress code at La Spiga was "semi-formal," which we took to simply mean "don't wear jeans," so we were completely unprepared for a *maître d'* in jacket and tie, let alone a server one piece short of a tuxedo. Clearly we were in way over our heads. Don't believe everything you read online: the website we consulted had lowballed the prices, so we were surprised to see entrées ranging from $25-$35, with pastas coming in a little lower. It was obvious that a budget-minded young couple with a new baby was seriously out of place, so we opted for the high-school dating technique of multiple appetizers followed by desserts. Our server didn't blink at our entrée-less order when he returned with my wife's Frangelico-laced cappuccino ($10.50) and my blueberry tea ($6.75). I was just pouring my steeped tea into my snifter's Grand Marnier and amaretto when the appetizers arrived. The bruschetta ($6) featured fluffy bread with a thin, crisp crust as a perfect base for the zesty tomatoes mounded on top. I sampled spicy pork sausage and a truly outstanding mustard herb sauce, urging the *salsiccia di casa* ($10) on my wife, but I could tell she wasn't listening. The tangy, sweet citrus white wine sauce of the *lumache con carciofi* ($10) had captivated her. We were just cleaning our plates when our server reappeared with the dessert menus. His description of the terrine ($7), a thin slab of Callebaut's finest, served frozen since it melts at room temperature, was too much for my beloved's chocoholism and she fell off the wagon. "This is the best thing I've ever had," she said. I figured that it would take something extraordinary to eclipse my delectable bourbon pecan pie drizzled in dark chocolate ($7), but after one taste, it was clear that my wife won the dessert challenge hands down. Including tax and tip, $70 bought us a delicious and classy soirée (though entrées could have easily doubled the bill), and if you're seeking that exceptional place for a special occasion, it doesn't get much better than La Spiga. Just remember to dress well. **Average Price: $$$$** *(Reviewed 10/21/04)*

MATAHARI
10108B-124 St • 452-8262
Exotic, sensual and ultra-modern, Matahari is all about the atmosphere. As we approached the restaurant from the free parking in back, the first thing we saw was the prow of a dhow: a beautiful, huge wooden boat ran the length of one wall, filled with booths; it was the McDonaldland train I begged to eat in as a child, grown up and rendered oh-so-elegant. After that, the second thing we saw was the koi pond. We managed to drag our jaws off the floor long enough to smile at the sweet, efficient server who showed us to a sage-coloured booth with a dark wooden table and smooth leather seats next to the koi. She left to prepare our Vietnamese coffees ($2.25), Vietnamese spring rolls ($3.50) and Thai curry puffs ($3.95). I would have expected this spectacular environment to have inflated the prices, but we were delighted to find nearly every dish—noodle, curry or grill—was under 10 bucks. After much debate over the wide range of dishes offered, my wife chose the Vietnamese vermicelli topped with a spring roll, lemongrass grilled pork and beef ($7.50), while I ordered the orange pork ($8.50). Appetizers arrived immediately afterwards, and we dug in with gusto, crunching happily on densely packed spring rolls bursting with flavour and curry puffs that boasted a spicy zing. My luscious pork and crisp vegetables swam in a tangy orange sauce next to a squared-off pyramid of fragrant jasmine rice. Generous servings of tender meats added a delicious mix of flavours to my wife's noodle bowl. We finished our meals with enough momentum to consider our dessert menus. The Roti Canai ($4.95), however, caught my wife's eye: filled with strawberry sauce and topped with coconut ice cream, this Malaysian/Indian crepe sounded daunting, so we ordered one to split. Made from scratch, it took about 15 minutes to get to the table, and reminded me of fresh-baked waffles. Tasty, but the coconut ice cream stole the spotlight. Matahari offers a superb pan-Asian dining experience: breathless décor, sensational food and terrific prices. **Average Price: $$** *(Reviewed 11/04/04)*

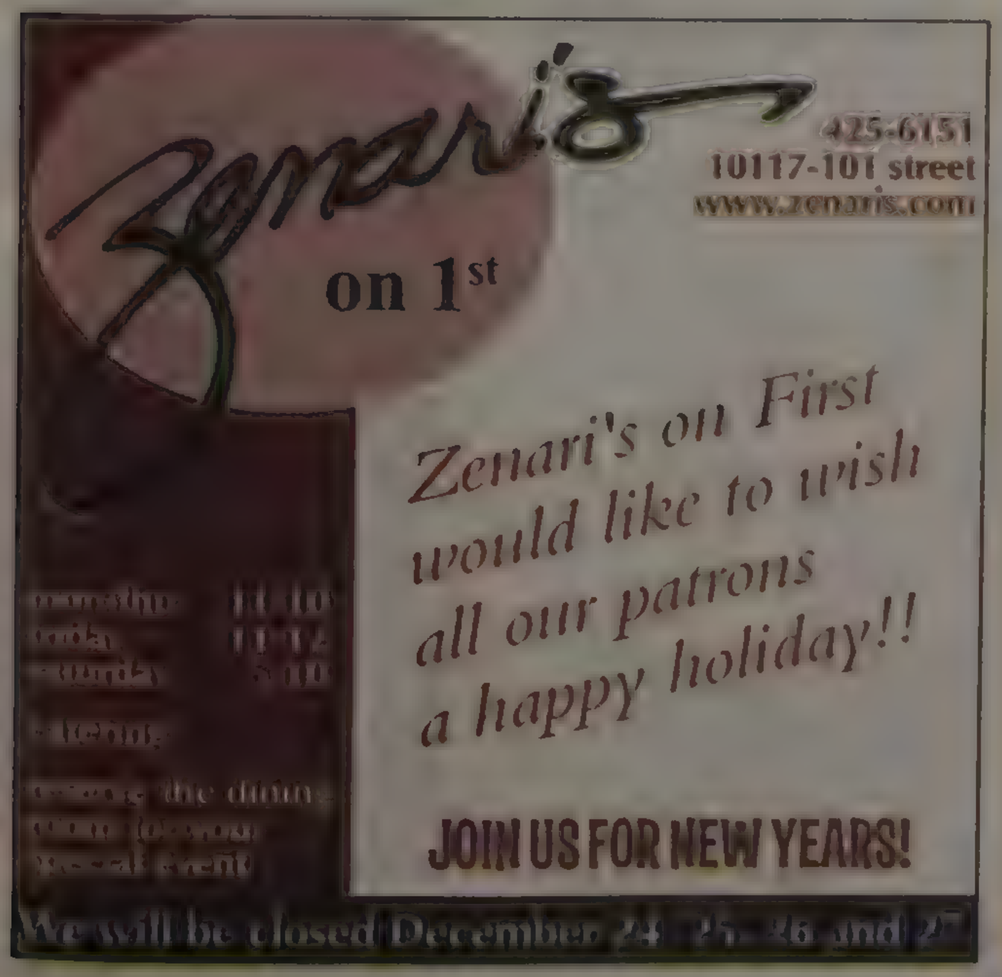
SCEPPA TRATTORIA AND DELI
10923-101 St • 425-9241
Forgive me Michael Stipe, for I have sinned. I, a normally faithful vegetarian, have lapsed in a terrible way, and I owe it all to Sceppa, a smallish Italian place with a converted-basement-rumpus-room vibe on the northeast side of downtown. After a couple of minutes, our waitress came over to our table with a basket of buns and explained the house rules: whenever you're ready, head over to the steam tables (just like the ones in your high-school cafeteria), where the cook will lead you through the items currently on offer. And, just in case nothing on the day's menu floats your boat, wood-fired pizzas are also available. My wife picked first, opting for the chicken in white wine sauce ($12.99), dished out with carrots, onions and green peppers, along with a side of pasta. While I normally stick to a vegetarian diet, I can still occasionally be enticed into a bit of carnivorous action. Which, as it turns out, was exactly what happened when the chef opened steam tray number two, containing the veal parmigiana ($12.99). It just looked so good, sitting there under the melted cheese, steeping in a thick, rich tomato sauce. I couldn't help myself. The veal was tender, the sauce was just how I'd imagined it would be and the cheese was the melted, gooey, proverbial icing on the cake. The rigatoni that accompanied my dish was decent but not stellar, and my wife had similar feelings about her spaghetti with meat sauce. She quite enjoyed her chicken, and found the white wine sauce to be particularly good. But homestyle grub ably complemented the informal, warm, at-a-friend's-place charm, and the staff made us feel like family. What's not to love? **Average Price: $$** *(Reviewed 10/28/04)*





UNCLE ED'S
11401-50 St • 471-1010
I may be the last person in Edmonton to discover this, but the Mundare sausage people have a restaurant. Well, a diner. Okay, a few tables next to a takeout deli counter. Whatever. It's called Uncle Ed's and it's fantastic. The entire place boasts a rough charm, a vinyl-tablecloth-and-wood-paneling nod towards elegant décor that's at once tacky and endearing. We both ordered a #1, a combination of sausage, four perogies, four cabbage rolls, two baked cheese buns and two cheese crepes, all for the astonishing price of $7.95. When it arrived, I couldn't see the plate. Seriously. Every item was fresh, piping hot, and absolutely delicious. The taste of my sauerkraut perogies covered with bacon bits and served with a side of sour cream edged out my wife's, which were filled with cheddar cheese. The crepes were crisp and tasty, swimming in a fabulous sauce; the cheese buns peeled apart to release a deliciously fragrant steam. The cabbage rolls, packed tight with rice, held their own on this platter of wonder. And may I say, Mundare sausage lives up to and far surpasses its reputation. That slice of smoked meat on my plate was delicately courted all the way through my meal, slivers accompanying nearly every bite of everything else, until I finished the meal with three unadulterated bites of Stawnichy's finest. Thank you for not serving us ketchup. Sadly, my wife and I were both far too full to consider the homemade pie. We sat for a bit, waiting for the server to reappear, then realized that we would have to bring the bill up ourselves. Considering the fact we were both stuffed with sensational Ukrainian delights for less than $25 including tax and tip, it was a small inconvenience. Cheer for the food and dance for the price as you weep for your diet at Uncle Ed's. **Average Price: $$** *(Reviewed 11/11/04)*

VI'S FOR PIES
13408 Stony Plain Road • 454-4300
Every day, Vi's sends out its siren call to the thousands of commuters who drive along busy Stony Plain Road: most simply travel from the west end to downtown and back. The lucky ones stop. Our lucky trio stopped to dine early on a Wednesday evening and found the café still hopping with business-casually dressed after-workers, yet just starting to fill with neighbourhood patrons. Our entrées arrived quickly amidst envious glances from other tables. My wife's chicken cheddar salsa ($7.95) was delectable, its ingredients wrapped in crisp phyllo pastry and served with a minimalist salad. Some unidentifiable spices kicked it up half a notch, but I didn't risk asking for a third bite. My Thai peanut chicken on rice ($9.85) was as tasty as it sounds, disorienting me with the taste of peanut butter for supper as I gorged happily on tender chicken and fluffy white rice. The crisp peanuts contrasted to the softer textures in the dish, and I adored the dill dressing on my own side of tomato, cucumber and lettuce. Before our plates were cleared, both my wife and I had time to amble separately up to the refrigerated display case to select our culinary *coup de grâce*. My wife made the unregrettable error of ordering a slice of cheesecake larger than her hand, and I decided I had come to Vi's for pie. I deliberated for five minutes over four luscious options before closing my eyes and pointing: a sensational strawberry rhubarb crumble ($4.25), heated and served with real whipped cream, was my reward. I mowed through my dessert and another cup of coffee; we got the final third of her insurmountable cheesecake to go. (Not to worry: my wife polished it off before bed, very happy she had the foresight to bring a little dessert home with her.) Our meal easily came in under $40, with some change in our pockets and a soft spot in our hearts for Vi. **Average Price: $$** *(Reviewed 10/28/04)*





SIDETRACK Cafe
10333-112 STREET • 421-1326

THU 23
SHUYLER JANSEN'S HOBOTRON
Old Reliable's Shuyler Jansen releases his first solo endevour, The Hobotron. With guests CHAD VAN GAALEN.

CLOSED DECEMBER 24&25

SUN 26
FREE BEER & PIE
Come celebrate Boxing Day! The band is called FREE BEER & PIE, so don't even think of asking for some...
Under the covers Sundays w/ DJ DUDEMAN

MON 27
BEST OF OPEN STAGE
Ben Spencer hosts a night recapping the best of Monday's open stage.

TUE 28
HOMESTEAD RECORDS SHOWCASE
Homestead's Bluegrass, Roots and Country music showcase feat: JOHN WORT HANNAM, THE HOOTIN' ANNIES, JOANNE & HALEY MYROL, SHAWNDEL and JAMIE CALAN & GORDIE MATTHEWS.

WED 22
BEN SURES
Ben's birthday set, recorded live for CBC's Key Of A.
With guests THE AGNOSTIC MOUNTAIN GOSPEL CHOIR.

THU 30
BOBBY CAMERON
Edmonton's guitar legend makes a stop at the 'Track.
With guests SINCLAIR.

FRI 31
NEW YEARS EVE with THE SUPERBAND
Join us for a night of non-stop white-hot funk!

JAN 1ST THE MOCKING SHADOWS
JAN 4TH VIEWFINDER CD RELEASE w/ THE CALM BEFORE w/ SLIVER
JAN 5TH KITCHEN PASSPORTS w/ WHYTE MUD DRIVE

OPEN DAILY AT 4PM FOR HAPPY HOUR

SLEEMAN'S PRESENTS...
OPEN STAGE MONDAYS
w/ BEN SPENCER
9:00 PM - NO COVER
$3.75 SLEEMANS PINTS $3.50 HI-BALLS

for more listings and information visit
WWW.SIDETRACKCAFE.COM



Youth's endearing charm

Collective Soul revisits their younger days on appropriately-titled new album *Youth*

BY HEATHER ADLER

Recently, the world's five major music labels were whittled down to just four after Sony and BMG merged to form the second largest music juggernaut on the planet, claiming a reported 25-per-cent market share on the globe's music sales. Collective Soul, however—one of the biggest bands of the '90s, boasting 19 Billboard-charting singles, eight number-ones and over seven million records sold—isn't on any of those labels. In fact, their new album, *Youth*, was put out on their very own small imprint, MI Music. But according to guitarist Dean Roland, business has never been better for the radio-ready quintet of power-chord rockers. Sure, they aren't selling at platinum status anymore, but this time out they're actually having fun and feeling young again.

"It's totally fun again," Roland explains. "Part of it is the fact that we own our own music, and there's a renewed interest in the process of it all. We get to go out and make music, and we feel so blessed to do that. That's really what the title for *Youth* comes from: we are back to doing this for the same reasons we started. It's fun again and so we feel young. The essence of the feeling we had back in the day has been tapped into again."

Roland says in his career, which spans over 10 years, he's seen the face of the music industry go through dozens of lifts, tucks and makeovers. During the last of those changes, Collective Soul began to feel like their old cohorts at Atlantic were no longer adequately representing their work, which was just a part of the reason for the split. "The music industry is going through a phase of deconstruction: everyone is merging and the

PREVUE ROCK

world's music is basically being controlled by four companies," he observes. "There's so much opportunity in the digital realm, with new ways to distribute and market, so we wanted to try that."

"One of the most important things for us was also to own our own music," Roland continues. "We've sold millions of records and recorded hundreds of songs, but we didn't own the music—Atlantic did. It just became apparent that we needed to do this for ourselves and this was meant to happen."

ALTHOUGH HE ISN'T IMPRESSED by the way the big labels are getting larger and more bloated than ever, Roland recognizes there is a huge opportunity in all that amalgamation for niche organizations. Big-name artists like Collective Soul are starting their own labels, while other smaller independent labels are getting more powerful than ever as good people leave the majors in search of challenge and change. "I feel like the consumer is getting short-changed," he asserts. "From an artist's perspective, there is so much amazing music that's not making its way out. It's not necessarily any one entity's or any one person's fault—that's just how it is—but the more merging that goes on, the more homogenized music becomes."

"It's funny though, because with all the merging that's been going on with the major labels, there have been a lot of amazingly talented people with great connections that have been let go or left," Roland adds. "So we were actually able to hook up with some of those people to help us out. The irony of it is, the people who used to work our record at Atlantic are now working our music on our own label. That's the beauty of what's happening—the industry is working for the artist instead of the other way around."

Still, getting *Youth* out and into the hands of fans wasn't exactly easy. Besides getting their imprint started, the band also faced a number of personal challenges, which Roland vaguely describes as "divorces and whatnot," plus there was no guarantee that fickle fans hadn't forgot the band during their four-year hiatus. But, like a band reborn, Collective Soul defied the odds with their renewed sense of determination and purpose. "There were probably moments when we thought of giving up, but it was nothing we were ever focused on. In our hearts, we always knew we would get this album out and recorded—we just didn't know exactly how it was going to happen," Roland explains. "I don't know why we wanted it like we did when we were kids again, and I don't know what keeps me young—I'm too old." ◆

COLLECTIVE SOUL
With guests • Cowboy's • Wed, Dec 29



The Snowman cometh

Dietzche V. and the Abominable Snowman reunite for the good of the party

BY LEAH COLLINS

At first glance, Edmonton might not seem like the kind of city that could be called a hedonistic hotspot—after all, there's something about sprawling shopping complexes, Moose Factory-dining and the occasional Whyte Ave jock-riot that doesn't scream world-class nightlife. But for the city's self-proclaimed "biggest party fucking band," Dietzche V. and the Abominable Snowman, there's no better place to hit the dancefloor in a flurry of fist-pumping glory.

It's been a while since Dietzche V. (or DVAS) has bothered to show off their dancing pants in the greater Edmonton area; the Abominable Snowman (or Jered Stuffco, if you prefer) has been in Toronto, where he's been studying at Ryerson, since late summer. Stuffco's migration meant quits for the band, who played what they touted as a "farewell" show this past August. While Stuffco apologizes to scenesters who thought that this summer saw the end of his and Dietzche V's party alliance, his experience in Upper Canada has left him with an appreciation for the Edmonton scene. "Since I've been out in Toronto, I've realized that people don't know how to party in Toronto like they do back here," says Stuffco. "People in Toronto are a little bit more self-centred; they're more concerned with just themselves, rather than the good of the party."

"There's nothing better for the good of the party than music," he continues, getting a murmur of echoed approval from the rest of the group.

The band members—Stuffco, Dietzche V. (Darren Veres), Vis-à-Vis

PREVUE PARTY MUSIC

(Dan Carlyle of The Floor) and Shocker (Jordan Stuffco)—sit around in their downtown practice space, drinking beer and waiting for an order of Peking duck (courtesy of Mrs. Shocker) while squeezed in amongst piles of electronic gadgetry and keyboards. It's a bit of a reunion: they're back together, practicing and working on new material for the first time in months. And it's all for the good of the party—their upcoming CD release party at Victory Lounge is this week.

THE RECORD is *Bromance/The Chant*, a white vinyl, double-A-side seven-inch, put out by local label Pop Echo Records. "It's probably the most blatantly pop thing we've done so far," says Veres.

"The EP that we did [2003's *Business + Pleasure*] was like Kraftwerk—very cold, very austere, very German influenced electronic music," pipes in Stuffco. "This EP—or single, I guess—it's been more collaborative, more focused towards pop because you can't do cold, austere techno in your basement forever. It doesn't perform well.

"Just hearing it through a large system, rather than headphones, was a slap in the face, but a good one," Stuffco continues. "This whole band was just a joke in the beginning—just a chance for us to get together, be stupid, have fun and play ridiculously retarded music. I love music like this, don't get me wrong; I love music by people like Patrick Cowley—who's an esteemed disco producer from the early '80s—and Giorgio Moroder. It's just really goofy, celebratory, but slamming, electro disco stuff."

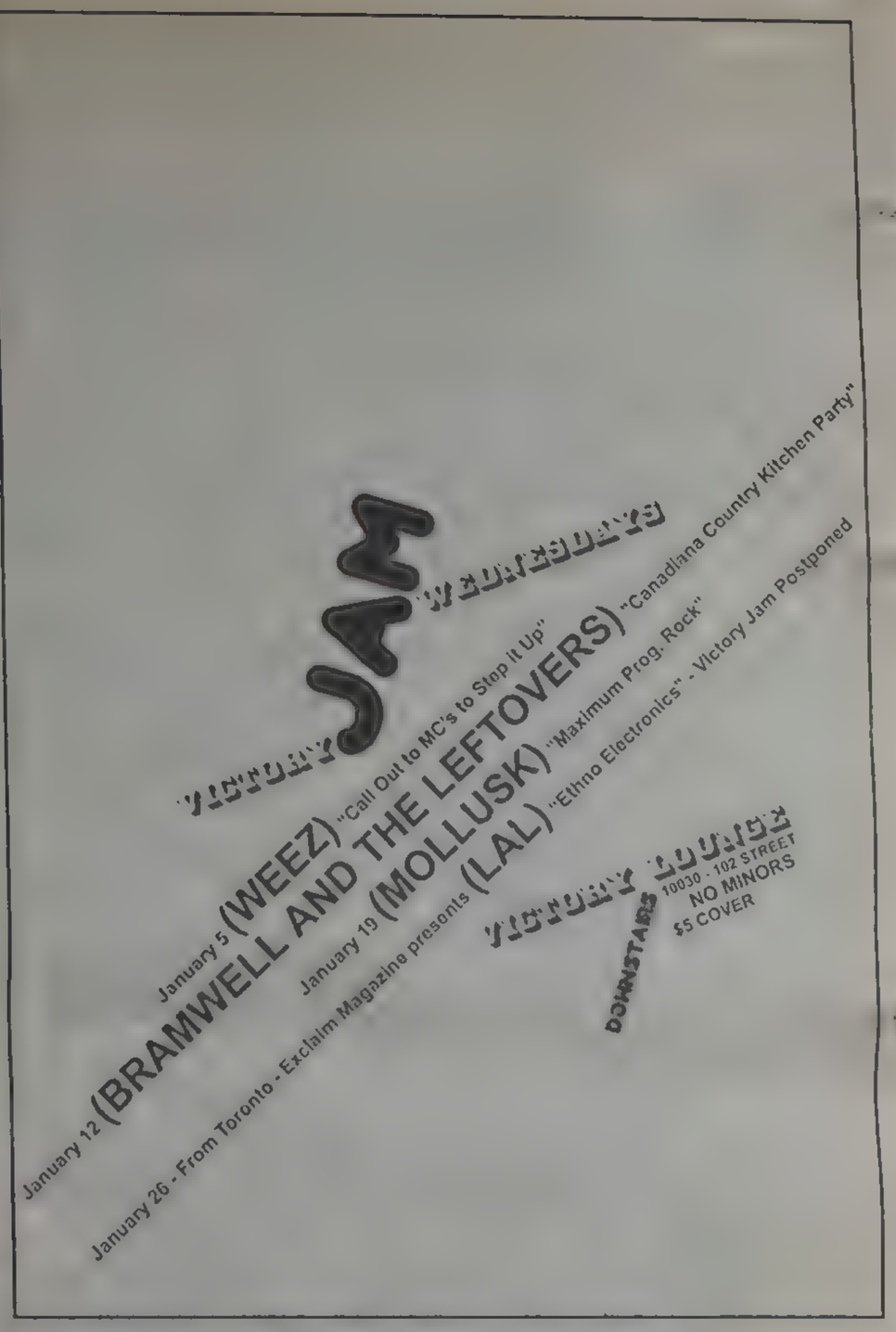
As much as they love a live bash, DVAS doesn't foresee any more shows after their gig this week, conceding that they're back together out of obligation to their pals at Pop Echo. But, if their "final" show last August proved anything, you can be sure the party's not entirely over for the group. "We're like Cher," explains Stuffco. "Cher's farewell tour has been going on for years.

"If Pop Echo wants to do another record with us, we'll play more shows," he continues. "We'd do anything they want us to do because: (a) they put their money where their mouth is, (b) they're professionals, (c) they're very handsome. And it's a chance for me to play with these guys."

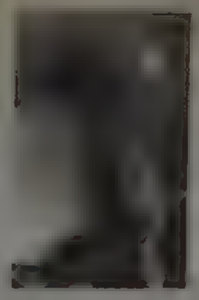
"It's awesome for us to get together, the four of us," adds Veres. "To be able to get together to make retarded, stupid, crazy silly music together is just..."

"Yeah," says Stuffco. "It's a love thing." V

DIETZCHE V. AND THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN
With Bolide and Shout Out Out Out Out • Victory Lounge • Thu, Dec 23 (9pm)







music notes

BY PHIL DUPERRON AND ROSS MOROZ

Maybe you should consider another religion...

The Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir • With Ben Sures • Sidetrack Café • Wed, Dec 29 All right, so they're a four-piece, not a choir, and I don't think they're even Agnostic or of any denomination, really, but The Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir definitely delivers a musical religious experience.

Playing old-time delta blues with the ferocity of a punk band, the Calgary natives have been turning heads with their 2003 disc, *Saint Hubert*, which got nominated for "Best Blues Recording" at this year's Western Canadian Music Awards. Upright bassist Vlad Sobolewski says the band had a brilliant summer with their first tour out east and a host of festival appearances across the country. "We got lots of stuff going on," he explains, "but I think our focus right now is to get ready to do some recording and get some new material out." In fact, the band is set to start recording a new disc in January, which should be out by next summer. Like *Saint Hubert*, the followup will have a mix of original songs and traditional numbers culled from the distant past.

Although things seem to be coming up roses for the Agnostics these days, anyone who caught them playing in town this summer would have noticed Sobolewski's booming bass was missing. "The van had caught fire just outside Oshawa," he explains. "The rear axle had broken, and the rear wheel well caught fire—it was quite a thing. Anyway, the guys all ended up flying back to Calgary, leaving me to drive back across Canada. I made it about as far as Dryden, Ontario and the bearings went on the same side, so I was stuck there."

"I couldn't make it back in time to play the show at the Black Dog," Sobolewski continues, "so it was a three-piece. But rest assured, there will be all four Choir members this time." But even vehicular mishaps can't get these choirboys down. "I had such a god-damned good summer," says Sobolewski. "It was the first time off I'd had in like, 15 years really. I had all the band money, I had the Visa, I had unlimited time to get back home." (PD)

Red's
BIG TIME ENTERTAINMENT, BIG TIME FUN!
WEST EDMONTON MALL 481.6420 WWW.REDS.AB.CA
7 YEARS COMES TO AN END
FINAL SHOW!
HYPNOTIST TERRANCE B.
FREE SHOW • 9:30PM • NO MINORS • DRINK SPECIALS
SUN DEC 26
RING IN THE NEW YEAR AT RED'S!
MARDI GRAS 2004
TOM COCHRANE & RED RIDER
WITH DJ KENNY K!
MIN GREAT PRIZES
· A TRIP FOR 2 TO MARDI GRAS!
· A BIG SCREEN TV FROM BIZARRO!
· A BEER VENDING MACHINE FROM BARVIDA
· A HOME KARAOKE SYSTEM FROM AXE MUSIC
· A TRIP FOR 2 TO JASPER FROM LITTLE PENGUIN
· A TAG HEUER WATCH FROM MICHAEL ANTHONY JEWELERS
Red's
INDY JAN 21
TEN SECOND EPIC
GLASS TIGER
WITH MONKEYS UNCLE
SAT JAN 22
WEST EDMONTON MALL 481.6420 WWW.REDS.AB.CA

Les Tabernacles
ALTER BOYS, THEY ARE NOT.
FRIDAY DECEMBER 31ST
NEW YEAR'S BASH
WITH THE BLAME-ITS
TWENTY REASONS YOU SHOULD'A BEEN AT SEEDY'S IN 2004:
THE GUARANTEED VERTICAL STRUTS
THE SMOKIN' 45'S
ALCB
THE DOERS
THE CONSTANTINES
FALCONHAWK
TWIN FANGS
ALL PURPOSE VOLTAGE HEROES
AA SOUND SYSTEM
THE BLAME IT'S
BLACK RICE
THE KRAZY 8'S
BEBOP CORTEZ
THE HANK AND LILY SHOW
DUDLEY DAWSON
MOOSEKNUCKLE
ROAD TO NOWHERE
THE B MOVIES
Seedy's
DJAY'S TUESDAY - THURSDAY
BE HERE OR BE TRAPAZOID!
10314-104 ST

Où peux-je trouver l'escalier électrique, monsieur?

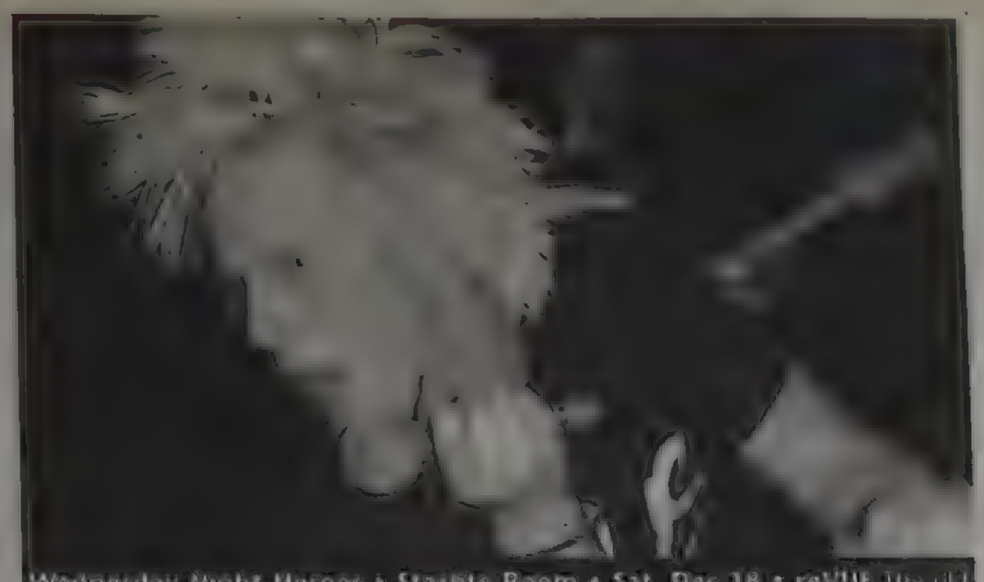
Escalator • With The Current Swell • Victory Lounge • Thu, Dec 30 The escalator (or "inclined elevator") was invented by American Jesse W. Reno in 1891 and allowed people to climb stairs completely effortlessly. As cool as electric staircases are, though, this turn-of-the-century marvel should not be confused with Escalator, local singer-songwriter Dustin Cole's latest project—although the former is a pretty decent metaphor for the latter.

"I like really simple metaphors," says Cole, who's music career seems to be on the "up" escalator as of late after recently opening for the likes of Buck 65 and Ashley MacIsaac despite Escalator having existed for less than year. "My music is not very abstract: I basically write pop songs."

Cole is unabashed about his pop sensibilities, although he concedes that pop has become a bit of a dirty word in contemporary music circles. "I know there's a lot of bad pop these days," Cole admits, "but I can't really think of my music being anything other than pop. I wouldn't want to call it anything else."

Part of Escalator's pop aesthetic comes from Cole's decidedly un-rock vocal influences. "The vocal style that I use I sort of borrowed from female vocalists," he reveals, citing Stereolab's Mary Hansen and Beth Gibbons of Portishead as influences. That said, Cole is inspired by at least one aggressive male rock singer, confessing his admiration for ex-small's frontman Mike Caldwell, with whom Cole has shared a bill. "I think he's one of the best singers in the world," Cole gushes. "He's a huge influence of mine, and to be able to play with him was a huge honour."

As for what inspires his writing, Cole cites pretty universal pop themes. "I'm not inspired by political happenings; I'm definitely more prone to write about a relationship," he explains, noting that, while introspective, his songs are rarely about himself. "Actually, a lot of my songs are sort of stories about made-up characters," says Cole. "Lately, I've been writing a lot about my friends because lately their lives have been more exciting than my own. I think good pop songs sometimes have this larger-than-life quality."



Wednesday Night Heroes • Stainte Room • Sat, Dec 18 • reVUE The old adage, "Bad things happen to good people," was in full effect last Saturday night. After taking it upon themselves to throw a huge Christmas gig for Edmonton's punk scene, the Wednesday Night Heroes got into a rabbit accident while on their way to the show. Luckily, no one was hurt, but their trusty touring van, which carried them all over North America this summer, was totaled. Not ones to let things get them down, the Heroes took the stage and laughed it off with a handful of covers to the punks cheering them on. All the little boys and girls must have been good this year because they got an early Christmas present as the Heroes unveiled a few brand new numbers mixed in with their set of crowd-pleasing singalongs. (PD)

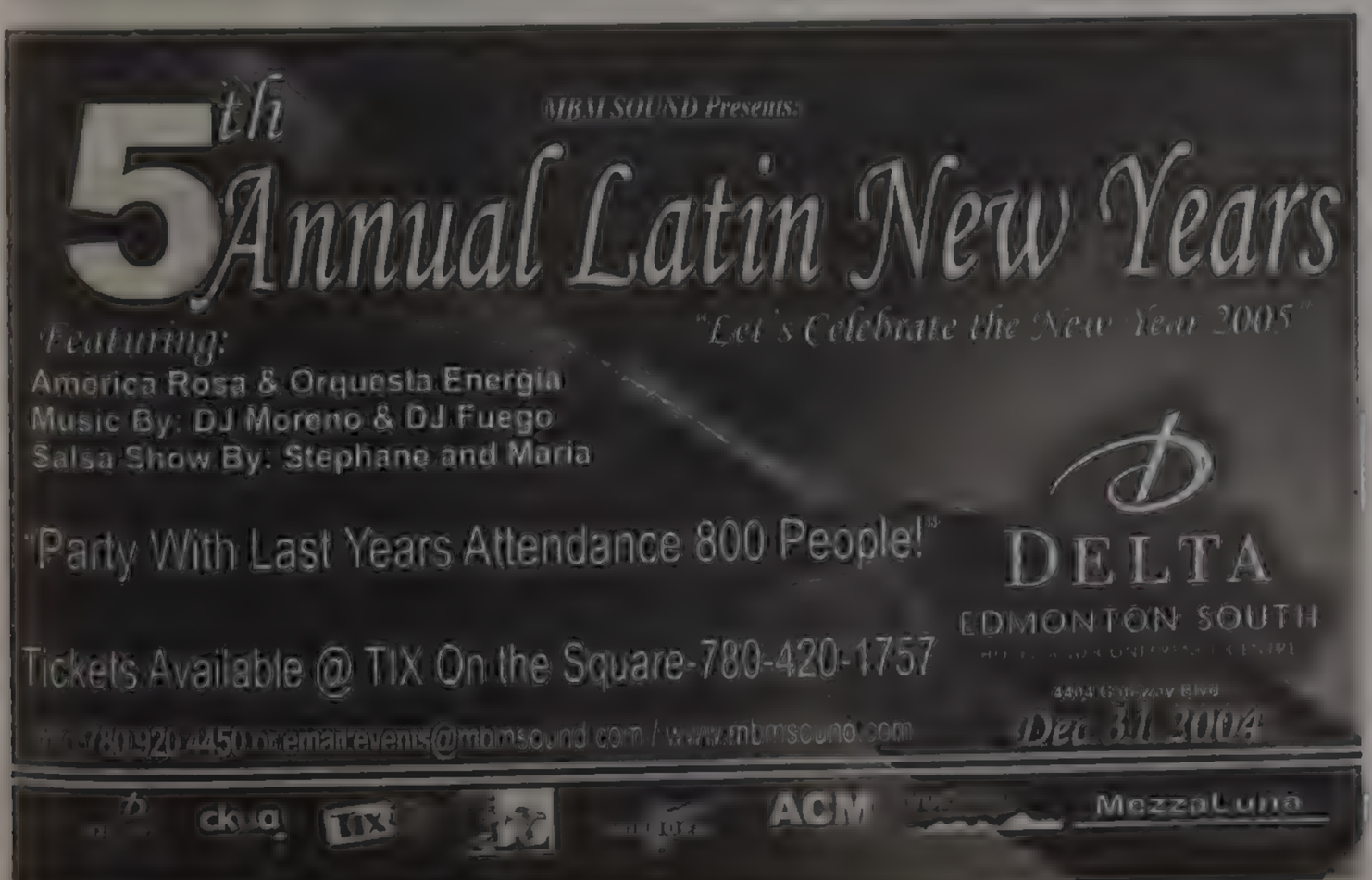
While Cole has been a part of the local music scene for quite some time in various incarnations as a solo artist, Escalator is his first stab at fronting a band, and though he's really enjoying the experience, he confesses he's noticed his ensemble is a little different than most local groups. "Yeah, we're definitely not punk or hardcore or anything," he laughs, "but we're hardcore about writing good pop songs." (RM)

Talkin' turkey

6th Annual Bishop's Turkey Dinner • New City • Fri, Dec 24 (7pm) It started as a fun idea to entertain and feed a handful of staff and regulars at the old New City during Christmas, but in every year since, the Bishop (a.k.a. Stephane Levesque) and the rest of the New City staff cooks a killer Christmas dinner—including tasty vegetarian fare—for all comers. "It's an alternative for Edmontonians who have nothing to do on Christmas or don't celebrate Christmas but like turkey, are on their own or don't like cooking," explains Levesque. "So it's an alternative of a quality evening with food, good booze and fun music. Because it's Christmas I got [DJ] Jebus to do the music—Jebus himself." Last year, New City fed 80 people, but many more just came for the party, and it just keeps getting bigger. "This year, I'm getting almost 90 pounds of turkey," Levesque says. "I'm getting five turkeys."

As the event has grown in size and popularity, they've found local media and businesses jumping on board to get the word out and help them spread the Christmas cheer even further. "Because most of the food and the turkey are donations and we charge under six bucks for the meal, we take all that money aside and we give it to [Mothers Against Drunk Driving]," says Levesque. "It's even cheaper than buying stuff at home, and you don't have to do dishes." (PD)





TOP

Megatunes

Your Music Destination

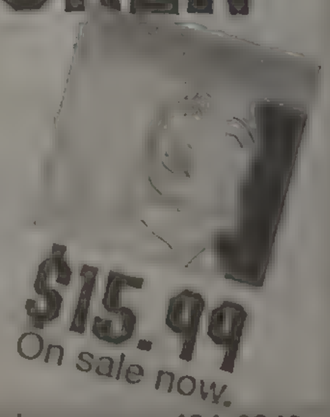
FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC 22, 2004

1. Madeleine Peyroux-Careless Love (Rounder)
2. Neko Case-The tigers have spoken (Mint)
3.Neil Young-Greatest Hits (Reprise)
4. Tom Waits-Real gone (Anti)
5. Alison Krauss & Union Station-Lonely runs both ways (Rounder)
6. Elliot Smith-From a basement on the hill (Anti)
7. U2-How to dismantle a bomb (Island)
8. Leonard Cohen-Dear Heather (Sony)
9. Ben Harper & the Blind boys of Alabama-There will be a light (Virgin)
10. Rufus Wainwright-Want two (Dreamworks)
11. Ray Charles-Genius loves company (Concord)
12. Tegan and Sara-So Jealous (Superclose)
13. OST-Ray (Warner)
14. K.D. Lang – Hymns Of The 49th Parallel (nonesuch)
15. Social Distortion-Sex, love & rock 'n' roll (time bomb)
16. Aimme Mann-Live at St.Ann's Warehouse (Superego)
17. OST-Thinking XXX (Emperor Norton)
18. A Perfect Circle-eMOTIVe (Virgin)
19. Chip Taylor & Carrie Rodriguez-Angel of the morning (TMG)
20. J.J. Cale -To Tulsa and Back (santuary)
21. Pearl Jam-Rearview mirror (Sony)
22. Interpol-Antics (Matador)
23. Gwen Stefani-Love angel music baby (Universal)
24. Pinback-Summer in Abaddon (Touch and Go)
25. Rammstein-Reise Reise (Universal)
26. Mark Knopfler-Shangri-La (Mercury)
27. Blues Explosion-Damage (Sanctuary)
28. Brian Wilson-Smile (Nonesuch)
29. Harry Manx-Road ragas (Dog my cat)
30. Cake-Pressure chief (Columbia)

LEONARD COHEN

DEAR HEATHER

The much anticipated new album from Leonard Cohen features 12 new recordings and is his first since 2001's 10 new songs. I wonder if many people will drink coffee whilst listening to this brand new Leonard Cohen album? Merry Christmas.



$15.99 On sale now.

10355 Whyte Ave. Shop online at megatunes.com 434-6342



MUSIC WEEKLY

YOUR GUIDE TO LIVE MUSIC IN EDMONTON

Fax your free listings to 426-2889 or e-mail them to Glenys at listings@vueweekly.com Deadline is Friday at 3pm

THU LIVE MUSIC

ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL Tim and Peter

BACKSTAGE TAP AND GRILL Open stage jam; 8pm-midnight

CARGO AND JAMES TEA SHOPPE Open stage hosted by Ron Taylor; 7:30-10pm

CASINO YELLOWHEAD Rockolas

CHRISTOPHERS Open stage hosted by Alberta Crude; 6-10pm

DRUID Wynter Thursdays open stage

DUSTER'S PUB Jam hosted by Brian Petch

53 L'ATTITUDE Dominisimo (Latin jazz); 9pm-midnight

FOUR ROOMS Rhonda Withnell

THE GRINDER Open stage hosted by Rust Reed; 9pm-midnight

J.J.'S Thurdays Nu Music Stage: featuring Manhattan Jack, Just Drive (rock)

KROBAR Joshua's Habit; 9pm

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE New City's Christmas bash

SIDETRACK CAFÉ Shuyler Jansen's Hobotron (CD release party), Lane Arndt, Chad Van Gaalen; 8pm; $7 (door)

UNION HALL Connor's Road; donation to food bank

URBAN LOUNGE Hyndsyt; $5

VICTORY LOUNGE Dietzche V. and the Abominable Snowman (7" release party), Bolide, Shout Out Out Out Out; $7

DJS

THE ARMOURY Vintage Thursdays: retro rock, dance and old school hip hop

AZUCAR NIGHT CLUB Urban Nights: Elephant Man: after concert party with DJ Touch It

BACKROOM VODKA BAR Animation Station: Trip hop, drum 'n' bass with MC Deadly, Gundam, Dale Force

BILLY BOB'S LOUNGE Escapack Entertainment

BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE Thump: intronica with the DDK Soundsystem

DECADANCE Shift Heaven: house with Tripswitch, Sweetz, T-Bass, Alvaro, Femme Funk, Rezidnt Funk

DEWEY'S Hip Hop 101: with Jsmilz

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE ON WHYTE Sleeman Method Thursdays: hip hop, downtempo with DJ

ESCAPE ULTRA LOUNGE Thursday Ladies Night: Top 40, R&B, retro with DJ Shocker

FILTHY MCNASTY'S Punk Rock Bingo with DJ S.W.A.G.

GAS PUMP Ladies Nite: Top 40/dance with DJ Christian

GUILTY MARTINI DJ Jeff

LONGRIDERS Latin Nights; free dance lessons 8-9:30pm

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE Rub-A-Dub Thursday: rocksteady, dub reggae with DJ Jeebus and the Operation Redication Sound System

NEW CITY SUBURBS Progress: eletro/new wave with DJ Miss Mannered and guests; no minors

POWER PLANT Crush On Fridays: Top 40 with DJ Redpoint

RENDEZVOUS Metal Night with DJ McNasty

THE ROOST Rotating shows: Sticky's open stage and the Weakest Link game with DJ Jazzy second and last Thursday; $1 (member)/$4 (non-member)

SAVOY Funk and downtempo with Ben Jamin

SEEDY'S DJ night

SIDETRACK CAFÉ Night Watch with Russell Gragg

STOLLI'S ON WHYTE Top 40 dance, R&B

URBAN LOUNGE Paper Scissors tournament featuring Hyndsyt; 3pm-2am; $5

VELVET LOUNGE Urban Substance: hip hop/R&B end of exams jam with Spincycle, Invinceable, J-Money, Sean B

VICTORY LOUNGE NRMLS WLCM: Electro synth pop hip hop with DJ Nik7 and guests; 9pm

FRI LIVE MUSIC

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE 6th Annual Bishops turkey dinner; fundraiser for MADD; 7pm

DJS

BOOTS Retro Disco: retro dance

BUDDY'S NIGHTCLUB Christmas Eve dance party

ESCAPE ULTRA LOUNGE With Urban Metropolis

FILTHY MCNASTY'S Shake Yo' Ass with Santa and DJ

THE ROOST Upstairs: Euro Blitz: best new European music with DJ Outtawak **Downstairs:** DJ Jazzy; $4 (member)/$6 (non-member)

URBAN LOUNGE Rockin' Christmas Eve Party with DJ Gilligan; 6pm-2am; $5

SAT LIVE MUSIC

Season greetings from Vue Weekly.

DJS

BOOTS Flashback Saturdays: retro dance, house with Derrick

THE ROOST Upstairs: Monthly theme parties, new music with DJ Jazzy **Downstairs:** Retro music with DJ Dan and Mike; $4 (member)/$6 (non-member)

SUN LIVE MUSIC

BLIND PIG PUB AND GRILL Sunday jam with Carmen Cook

BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE No Cluue Live Alternative Jazz Sundays: hosted by Rubim de Toledo (bassist) and guests; no cover

CARGO AND JAMES TEA SHOPPE Open stage with Bob Robichaud; 7-10pm

FOX PUB Lost Republik, Synpsycle,

NEW YEARS EVE

Nothing says "Happy New Year's" quite like a wall of amplifiers blaring obnoxious rock 'n' roll while you deadify your remaining brain cells with alcoholic shots with ambiguously sexual-sounding names. But if you've still yet to secure tickets for what is always the biggest bash of, uh, December for a while and then January, you might suddenly find yourself with a whole lot less jaw-dropping, ass-shakin', random-kissin' debauchery to do and a whole lot more lame, sitting-on-your-couchery in the mix. So, my friend, let me remind you of a few events going down on New Year's that you'd best hurry up and book, lest you be left with no choice but to fall out of the loser tree and hit every branch on the way down. —Heather Adler

BLACK DOG
10425 Whyte Ave • 432-1555
Tribute to Hank Williams and Townes van Zandt featuring the Swiftys, Shuyler Jansen, Terry Morrison and guests • $10

KINGS KNIGHT PUB
9221-34 Ave • 433-2599
Music by Chunk, Face First and Stereo Therapy • Doors at 6pm, show at 9:30pm • $13.75 (advance)/$17.50 (day of)

KROBAR
10551-82 Ave • 916-1557
Music by Broken Nose • Tickets available at Krobar and Filthy McNasty's • $10

THE ONE ON WHYTE
10544-82 Ave • 437-7699
Music by Wide Mouth Mason • Champagne and party favours • $40

SEED'S
West Edmonton Mall • 481-6200
Music by Tom Cochrane and Red Ryder • Mardi Gras theme with prizes including a trip to Mardi Gras, big screen TV, trip to Jasper • Doors open at 7pm • no minors • $54.95

SEEDY'S
10314-104 St • 421-0992
Music by Les Tabernacles and the Blame-Its • $12

SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE
9797 Jasper Ave • 421-9797
The Bear's Children's Fund New Years Bash 2005 • Music by Sam Roberts, The Waking Eyes and Tupelo Honey • 8pm • no minors • $49.95

SIDETRACK CAFÉ
10333-112 St • 421-1326
Music by the Superband and guests • Doors at 7pm • $15 (advance)/$20 (door)

STARLITE ROOM
10030-102 St • 428-1099
Music by Social Code with Long Way Down • $17.50

7pm (door), 9pm (band); $3; DJ at [illegible]

KINGSKNIGHT PUB [illegible] Uncle, 7pm (door); no cover

KROBAR Las Vegas Crypt Keepers, Of Dementia, guests; 9pm

O'BYRNE'S Jam; 9:30pm

ROSEBOWL Jam with Mike McDonald; 10pm

SIDETRACK CAFÉ Under the Covers Sundays: Free Beer And Pie, DJ Dudeman, [illegible], $6

URBAN LOUNGE Boxing Day Blow-out [illegible], 7pm-2am

DJS

CALIENTE NIGHTCLUB Ladies Night: urban with DJ [illegible]

MANHATTAN CLUB Industry Sundays: top 40, dance/R&B

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE Dance and boxfight

ONE ON WHYTE House party with DJ Crownroyal

THE ROOST Betty Ford Hangover Clinic Show Beer Bash: every long weekend with DJ Jazzy; $2

SAVOY French Pop mixed with Deja DJ

STOLLI'S ON WHYTE Somatic Sunday: progressive beats with DJ Eightsix, DJ Dfekt, guests

URBAN LOUNGE Boxing Day blow out bash with DJ Gilligan; $5

MON
LIVE MUSIC

L.B.'S PUB Open stage with Randy Martin; 9pm-2am

THE ROOST Special Monday opening dance; 9pm

SIDETRACK CAFÉ Open stage Mondays with host Ben Spencer with guests the best of open stage; 9pm; no cover

DJS

BLACKDOG FREE HOUSE DJ Pennytentiary

DUSTER'S PUB DJ Dan

FILTHY McNASTY'S Metal Mondays with DJ S.W.A.G.

O'BYRNE'S Hip Mondays: Industry night with DJ Finnegan, live music

THE ROOST Special opening with DJs; 9pm dance

STOLLI'S ON WHYTE Manic Monday: Old skool, R&B, hip hop with Harman B and DJ Kwake

TUE
LIVE MUSIC

BLIND PIG PUB AND GRILL Open jam with Mark Ammar

DRUID Open stage with Chris Wynters

LEGENDS PUB Open jam hosted by Gary Thomas

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE Crappy Xmas gift exchange bingo

O'BYRNE'S Celtic night with Shannon Johnson and friends; 9:30pm

PEPPERS Open stage hosted by the Darryl Meyer Quartet (R&B, blues, jazz)

SIDETRACK CAFÉ Homestead Records Showcase: John Wort Hannam, The Hootin Annies, Shawndel, Jamie Calan and Gordie Matthews, Joanne and Haley Myrol; 8pm; $8

URBAN LOUNGE Salsa and the City; 9pm; Salsa dance lessons 8pm; $5 (door)

VICTORY LOUNGE Escalator, The Current Swell

DJS

BILLY BOB'S LOUNGE Escapack Entertainment

BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE Viva with DJ Sean

BUDDY'S NIGHTCLUB Top 40 with DJ Stephan

CALIENTE NIGHTCLUB Basement Tuesdays: hip hop/R&B/reggae/dance hall with Bomb Squad, DJ Invinceable, Q.B.

DECADANCE Too Cool for Tuesdays: Ambient, Trip hop, goa and glitch with Galatea, Bitstream and guests

DUSTER'S PUB DJ "Name a Tune" Dan

FILTHY McNASTY'S Twisted Trivia with DJ Whit-Ford

NEW CITY SUBURBS Resurrektion: industrial/EBM/electro/goth with Nik Rofeelya

THE ROOST Flamingo Bingo with DJ Janny; 8-midnight; $1 (member)/$4 (non-member)

SEEDY'S Tuesday Nights with DJ Miss Mannered

SIDETRACK CAFÉ Night Watch with DJ Whitey Houston

WED
LIVE MUSIC

ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL Open mic; 8pm

BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE Glitter Gulch

CANADIAN LEGION Open stage hosted by Dino Dominelli Hot Five; 9-midnight; no cover

COWBOYS Collective Soul; 7pm; $24.95; tickets available at TicketMaster

FOUR ROOMS Shucker

KINGSKNIGHT PUB Kenny Shields of Streetheart; 7pm

O'BYRNE'S Chris Wynters and friends; 9:30pm

PLEASANTVIEW HALL Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society bluegrass jam; 7:30pm

ROSSDALE COMMUNITY HALL Little Flower open stage hosted by Bnan Gregg; 8pm

SIDETRACK CAFÉ Ben Sures, 8-9:30pm; Agnostic Gospel Mountain Choir, 10:15-11:30pm; $8

VICTORY LOUNGE Victory Jam; The Guaranteed, DJ Pinch Selecta; open stage between sets; $5/no cover for musicians

DJS

BACKROOM VODKA BAR Wild Cherry: deep house/progressive/breaks with Tripswitch and guests

BLACK DOG FREE HOUSE Glitter Gulch with DJ Buster Friendly; no cover

BUDDY'S NIGHTCLUB Top 40 with DJ Stephan

FILTHY McNASTY'S Mix Tape Bar Star College Nite with DJ Rock 'n' Rogers

LE GLOBE DJ Moreno

GUILTY MARTINI DJ Sunny

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE New City Dolls: Glam, punk, metal with Skinny J, JJ Frenchy

THE ROOST Amateur Strip: Weena Luv, Sticky Vicky with DJ Alvaro; $1 (member)/$4 (non-member)

SEEDY'S DJ night

SIDETRACK CAFÉ Revolving Mystery with guest DJ

STOLLI'S ON WHYTE Blue Velvet: Urban electronica with Derelict and Soulus

VENUE GUIDE

THE ARMOURY 10310-85 Ave, 702-[illegible]

ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL 7704-104 St, 432-4611

AZUCAR NIGHT CLUB 11733-78 St, 479-7400

BACKROOM VODKA BAR 10324-82 Ave, upstairs, 436-4418

BILLY BOB'S LOUNGE Continental Inn, 16625 Stony Plain Road, 484-7751

BLACK DOG FREE HOUSE 10425-82 Ave, [illegible]

BLIND PIG PUB AND GRILL 32 St. Anne St, St. Albert, 418-6332

BOOTS 10242-106 St, 423-5014

BUDDY'S NIGHTCLUB 11725B Jasper Ave, 488-6636

CALIENTE NIGHTCLUB 10815 Jasper Ave, 425-0850

CANADIAN LEGION Jasper Place, #255, 10220-156 St, 996-4411

CARGO AND JAMES TEA SHOPPE 10634-82 Ave, 433-8152

CASINO (EDMONTON) 7055 Argyll Rd, 463-9467

CASINO (YELLOWHEAD) 12464-153 St, 463-9467

CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY PUB 2021 Millbourne Rd, West, 462-6565

COWBOYS 10102-180 St, 481-8739

DECADANCE 10018-105 St, 990-1792

DRUID 11606 Jasper Ave, 454-9928

DUSTER'S PUB 6402-118 Ave, 474-5554

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE ON WHYTE 10314-82 Ave, 439-4545

ESCAPE ULTRA LOUNGE WEM, 489-1330

53 L'ATTITUDE 10612-82 Ave, 431-5343

FILTHY McNASTY'S 10511-82 Ave, 432-5224

FOUR ROOMS RESTAURANT Edmonton Centre, 102 Ave, 426-4767

FOX PUB 10125-109 St, 990-0680

GAS PUMP 10166-114 St, 488-4841

LE GLOBE 14921 Stony Plain Rd, 489-1022

THE GRINDER 10957-124 St, 453-1709

GUILTY MARTINI 10338-81 Ave, 433-7183

J.J.'S 13160-118 Ave, 489-7462

KINGSKNIGHT PUB 9221-34 Ave, 433-2599

KROBAR 10551-82 Ave, upstairs, 916-1557

L.B.'S PUB 111-23 Akins Dr, St. Albert, 460-9100

LEGENDS PUB 6104-172 St, 481-2786

LONGRIDERS SALOON 11733-78 St, 479-7488

MANHATTAN CLUB 10345-105 St, 484-2211

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE 10081 Jasper Ave, 413-4578

NEW CITY SUBURBS 10081 Jasper Ave, downstairs, 413-4578

O'BYRNE'S 10616-82 Ave, 414-6766

ONE ON WHYTE 10544 82 Ave, 437-7699

PEPPERS Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave, 135 St, 451-8022

PLEASANTVIEW HALL 10860-57 Ave, 434-5997

POWER PLANT U of A Campus, 492-3101

RENDEZVOUS 10108-149 St, 444-1822

THE ROOST 10345-104 St, 426-3150

ROSEBOWL 10111-117 St, 482-2589

ROSSDALE HALL 10135-96 Ave, 429-3624

ROXY THEATRE 10708-124 St, 453-2440

SAVOY 10401-82 Ave, 438-0373

SEEDY'S 10314-104 St, 421-0992

SIDETRACK CAFÉ 10333-112 St, 421-1326

STOLLI'S ON WHYTE 201, 10368-82 Ave, 437-2293

TICKETMASTER 451-[illegible]

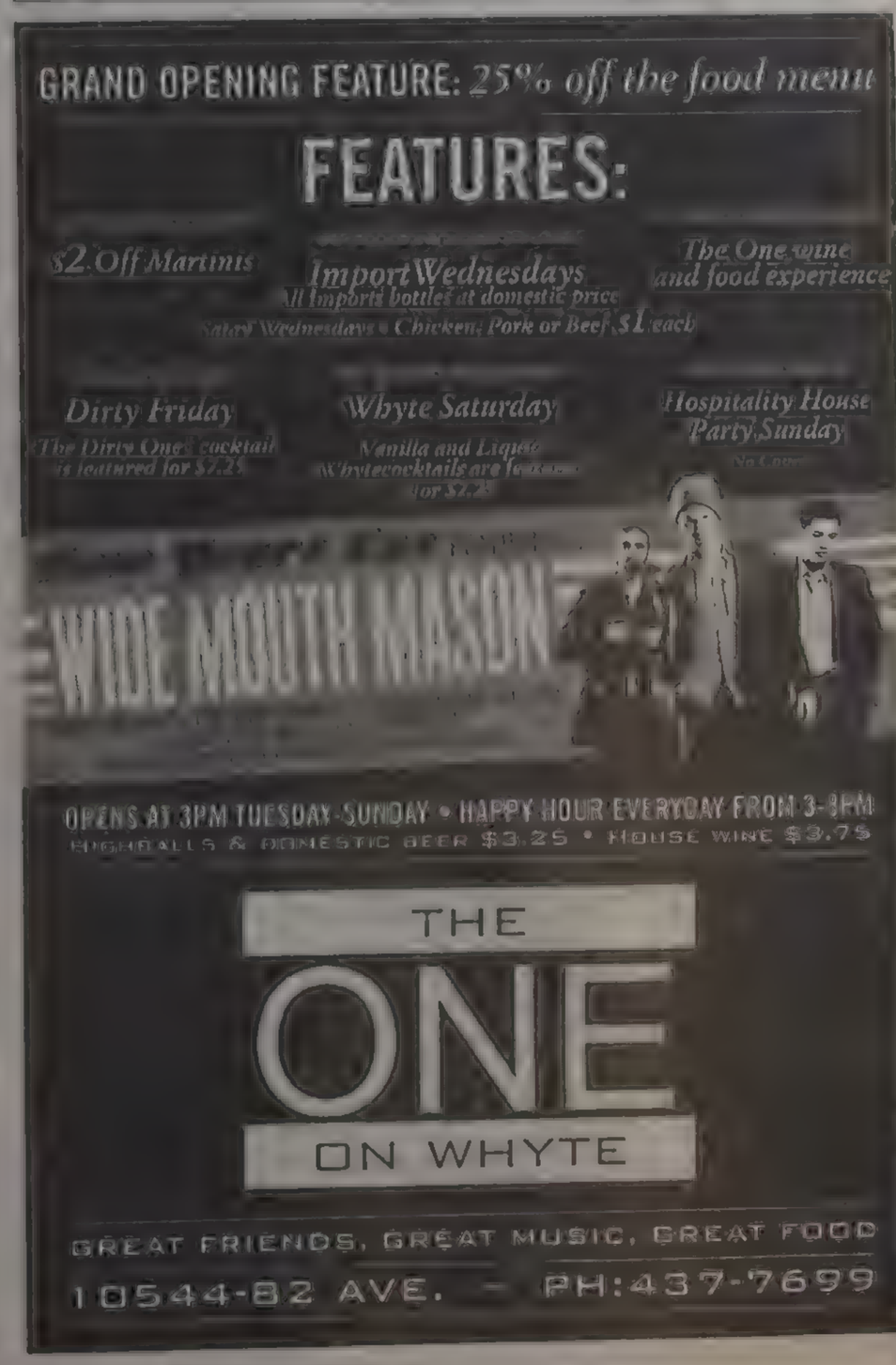
UNION HALL Argyll, 99 St, 702-0318

URBAN LOUNGE 8111-105 St, 439-[illegible]

VELVET LOUNGE 10041-170 St, 930-4222

VICTORY LOUNGE 10030-102 St (downstairs), 428-1099





Home ice advantage

Local folk artists band together for Homestead Christmas Party Showcase

BY PHIL DUPERRON

For years now, Homestead Recorders and engineer/producer Barry Allen have been recording great albums by a wide variety of Albertan musicians—and to highlight the bounty of talent that's come through their doors recently, they've organized a Christmas showcase featuring five diverse acts. Allen, who is a successful recording artist in his own right, has a reputation for coaxing the best possible performances out of the artist he works with, making him a hot commodity in Edmonton's thriving music scene.

Singer/songwriter John Wort Hannam, just one of the artists performing at the showcase, was first introduced to Allen's work while recording backup vocals for a friend's CD. Even though he lives in Fort Macleod, a small community south of Calgary, he chose to come up to Edmonton and record his debut disc, *A Pocket Full of Holes*, at Homestead. "When it came time to record some of my own songs," Hannam says, "I snooped around a little bit in Calgary—it made more sense for me to go to Calgary just because it's that much closer—but I'd had a good experience with Barry and knew he could put out a great product and stuff like that, so I decided to go back there."

Although Hannam sang in choirs as a boy in England before moving to Canada as a youngster, he didn't start playing his roots music live until a few

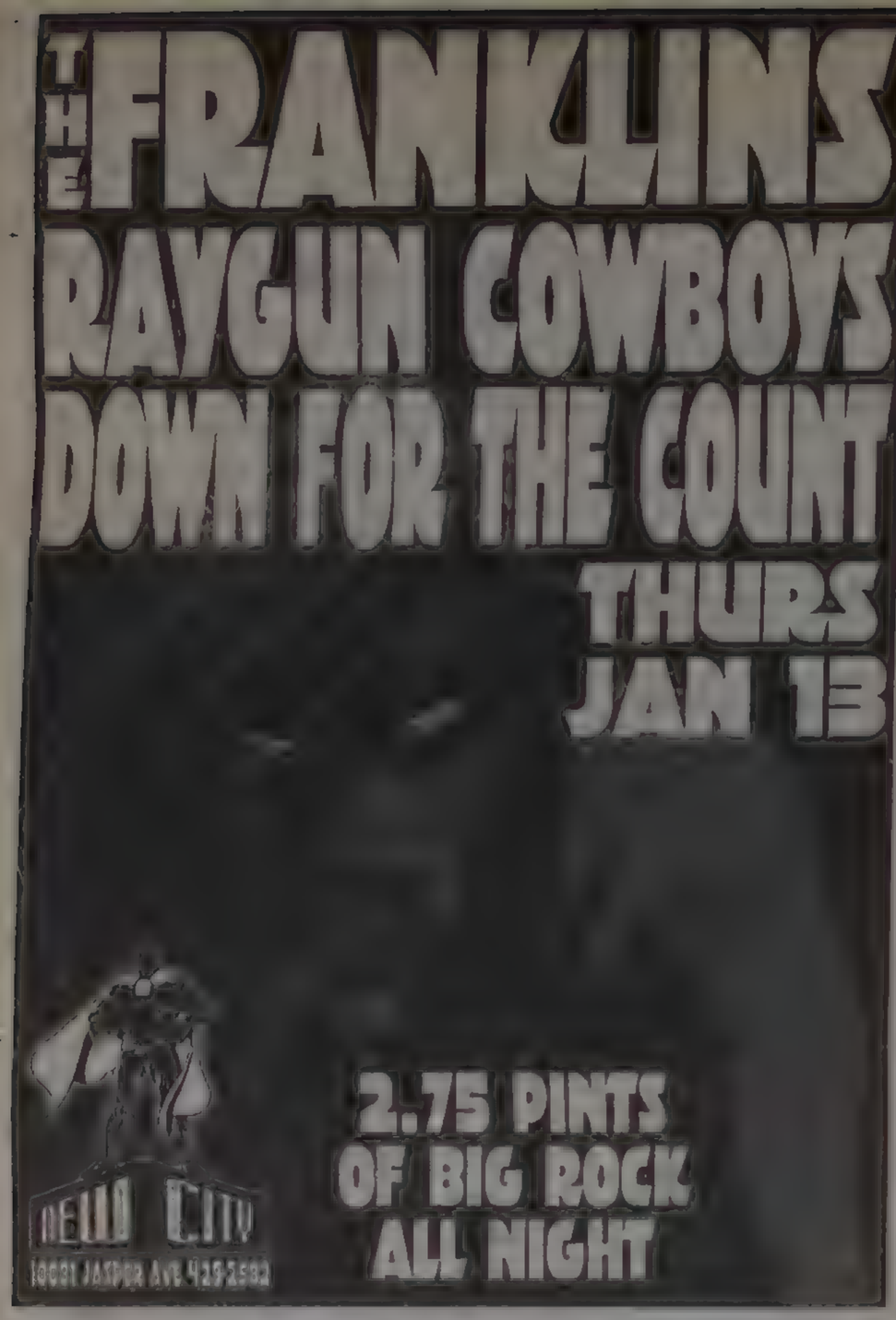
PREVUE SHOWCASE

years ago. "I certainly came to it late," he explains. "I was one of those guys—probably like lots of others—who spent a couple years sitting in my basement, writing songs, and finally one day I thought, 'Hey I should go somewhere and sing these.'"

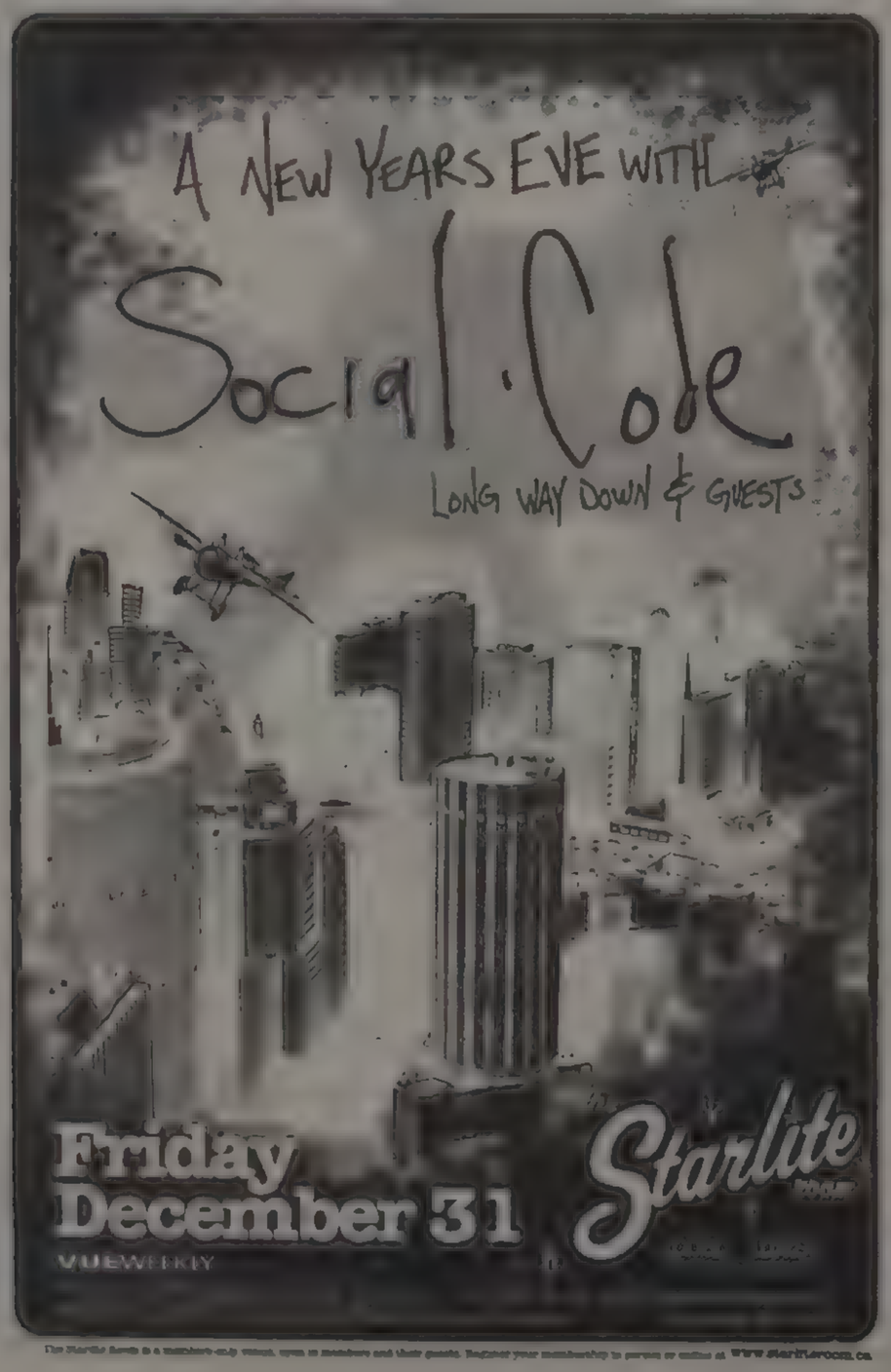
After a couple years of spinning his musical yarns about the people and places he came to know and love in Alberta, audiences were hungry to get their hands on some of his music. Hannam was still pretty new to the music business when he recorded *A Pocket Full of Holes*, and Allen helped show him the ropes. "I got the sense that he knows how to push you to get the best performance, but he also knows when you've had enough," Hannam notes. "You know, when you've tried it a few times that day, and maybe you should leave it until another day and move on to a different song—that was kind of what I needed. I needed someone to really take me through the process of recording because I really knew absolutely nothing going in to recording my first album, other than what I had done doing those backing vocals, and for that I didn't even have to think—they just gave me the lyrics, and I went in there and I sang. He's a very patient person and really great to work with."

Hannam released *Dynamite and 'Dozers*, his sophomore disc, this summer, which was also recorded by Allen. Both albums have been received well, and he's now able to focus on his music full-time. "I scrape by like lots of others, and some months are scarier than others," Hannam says, "but I've managed to start paying the bills playing music." Although he admits it would be easier to stay connected to the music community if he lived in the city, small-town life is more economical for a struggling musician, and the lifestyle appeals to Hannam. "I really love this small town," he says, "but getting back to paying the bills, it's very apparent that I couldn't survive in Calgary or Edmonton on the wage that I make. I can in a small town Also, I live here just because a lot of my songs are sort of rural-based, small-town-based, land-based and stuff like that. I'm definitely hooked on the prairies. I quite like it." ◊

HOMESTEAD CHRISTMAS PARTY SHOWCASE
Featuring John Wort Hannam, Jamie Calan & Gordie Matthews, Shawndel, Joanne & Haley Myrol and The Hootin' Annies • Sidetrack Café • Tue, Dec 28









All Canadian

Hudsons On Whyte

New Year's Eve Dec.31

Package A
$30 includes:
Hudsons Special NYE Buffet
Reserved Seating
Party Favours
Party Favours

Package B
$20 includes:
Admission to the All Canadian New Years Party!
Champagne and Party Favours
One heckuva good time eh!

CALL NOW 433-4526

Dinner Reservations starting at 6 PM
Limited number of Tables available!
www.hudsonstaphouse.com Whyte Ave. - 10307 - Whyte Ave.

4 Incrediable Parties!

standard

udsons

2 locations 1 party

BREAK YOUR RESOLUTIONS
before you make them
celebrate new year's at the standard

We've thrown open the doors and combined Hudsons and The Standard into one super-venue!
2 DJ's, 2 Dancefloors, 2 Parties, 2 Times the Fun, 1 Low Price

PACKAGE A
tickets $30 in advance
$40 at the door
Hudsons Special NYE
Buffet champagne
entertainment party
favors and more

PACKAGE B
tickets $20 in advance
$30 at the door
champagne
entertainment party
favors and more

Doors thrown open at 9 PM
Dress your casual best

Dec 31, 2004

CALL NOW! 438-2582

6107 - 104 street
www.the-standard.ca

silver disco ball

new years eve
Special New Years Happy Hour
$ 1 Hi-balls•9-10pm
Doors•9pm
TICKET PRICES INCLUDE
champagne
party favors
entertainment
and much much more

dress your casual best disco attire optional
tickets $ 10.00 in advance
$ 15.00 at door

CALL NOW 702-1800
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

ROCKIN' NEW YEARS - 2004

Join your fellow Union Members for the ultimate New Year's Bash!

CHAMPAGNE, PARTY FAVOURS AND
THE HARDEST ROCKIN' PARTY
BAND IN EDMONTON

MUSHARI & THE

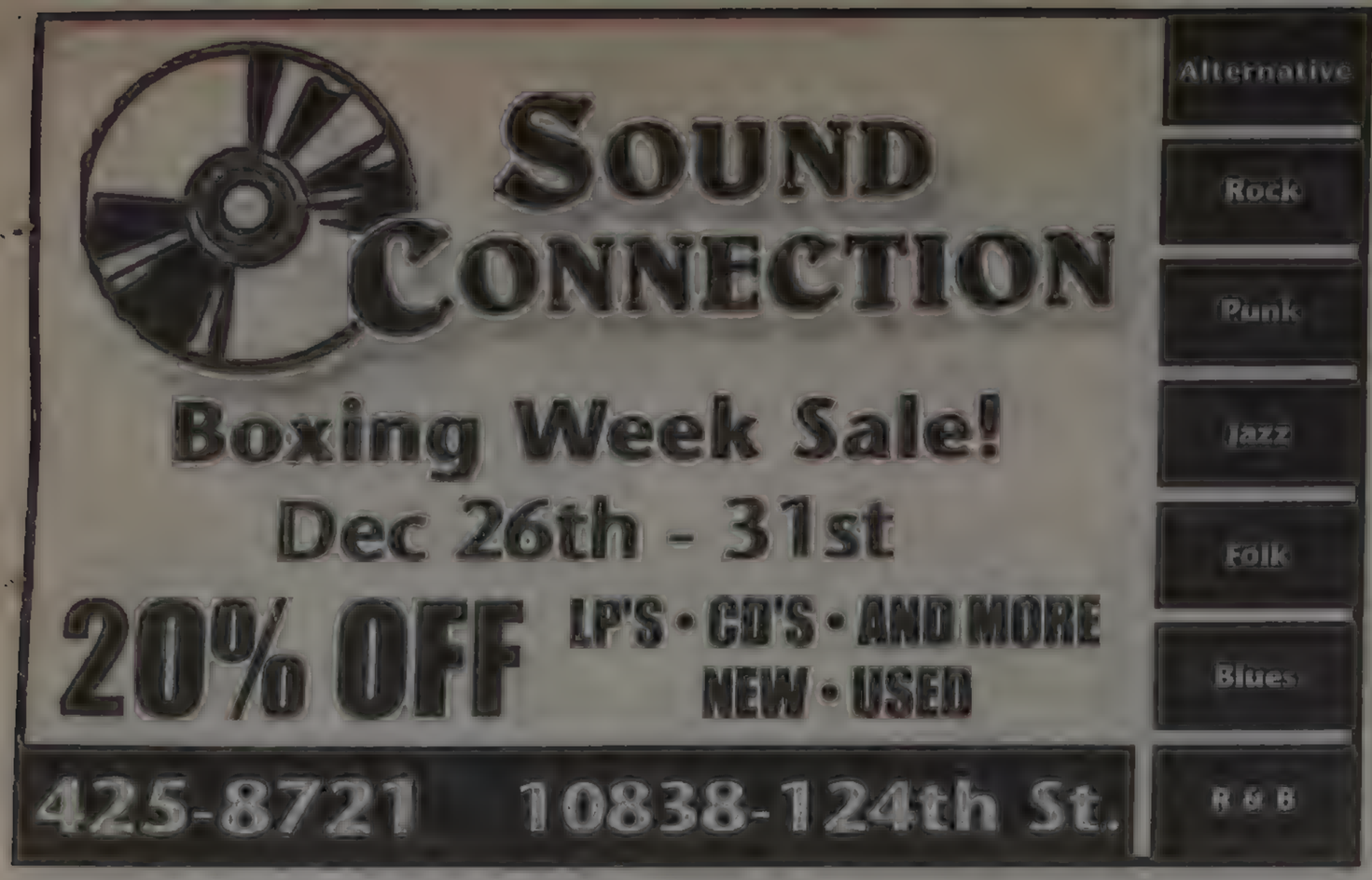
K-ROCK

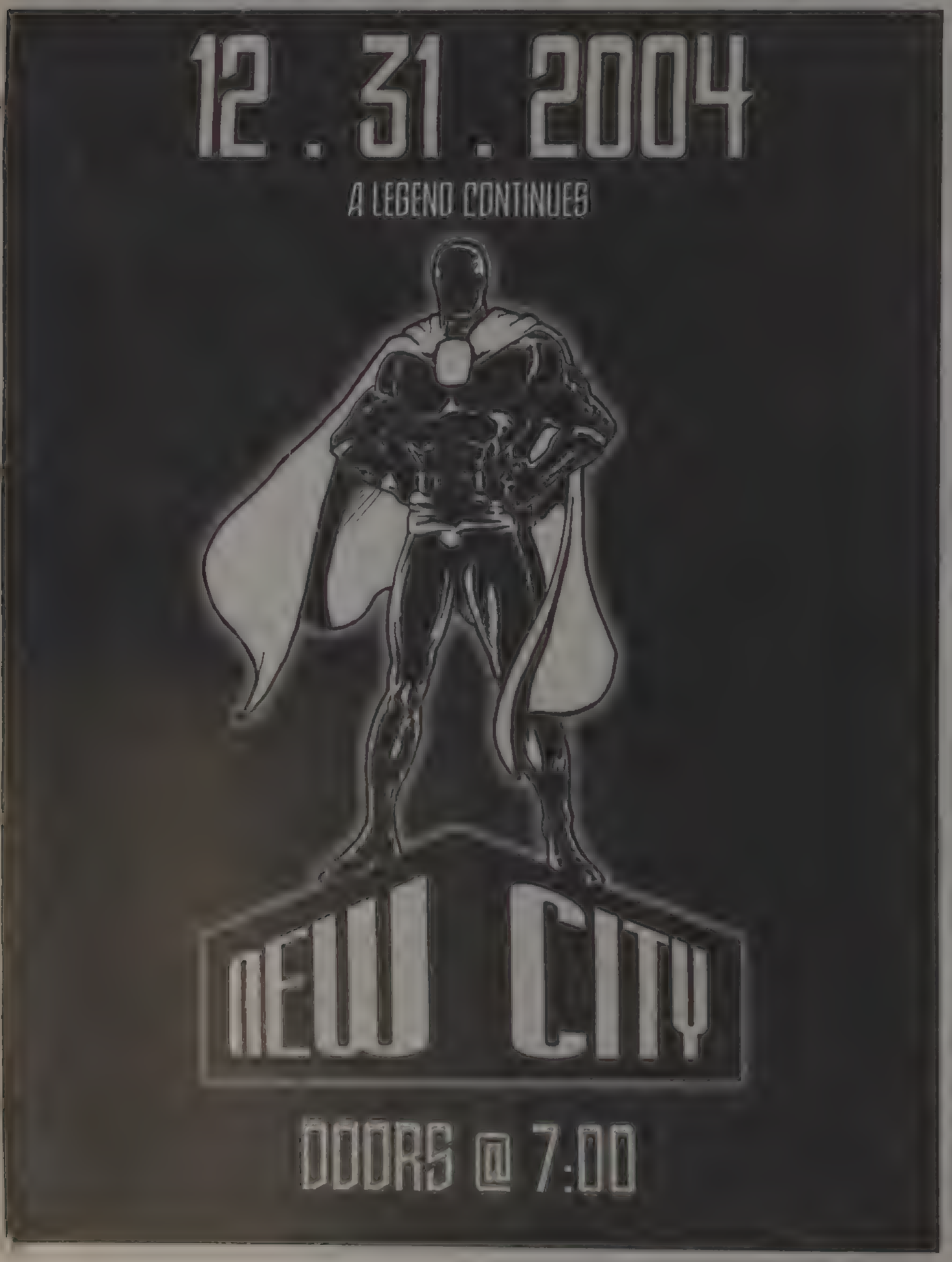
DECEMBER 31st

Tickets - $15 in advance
$20 at the door

CALL 702-2582 NOW!
LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE

UNION







feed back

BY HEATHER ADLER



THIS WEEK: Project Orange's Jean-Christophe Boies and Jean-Sebastien Boies discuss the making of *Megaphobe*

Making an album is, at the best of times, about as easy as stapling Jell-O to the wall—there are pressures from the record label, time constraints, monetary worries and all that internal artistic turmoil, which has been known to get to the best of even, well, the best. But for Quebec City's Project Orange, the task of crafting their sophomore album, *Megaphobe*, was even more complicated than your average recording stint: the band, comprised of brothers Jean-Christophe and Jean-Sebastien Boies, changed languages from French to English midway through their recording, suffered through a six-month break forced upon them when Jean-Sebastien came down with blood poisoning disease, and changed studios no less than three times. It was a long, arduous process for the duo, but after their album recently hit the streets, they were duly rewarded with their first smash single, "Tell All Your Friends," which hit number two on the MuchMusic countdown last week.

"We just heard our video was number two, and that's so amazing because you can't imagine how unsure we were when we started this big adventure," singer Jean-Christophe explains in a thick French accent. "We didn't even know if the English market would embrace our songs, and we had started the album entirely over just to try to get to them. Having the song played to everyone in Canada is very exciting to us."

Although their English might not be perfect—the brothers fumble on their speech, often searching for the right words as we talk—the Project Orange duo seem to have picked up the phonetics of music just fine. Jean-Christophe worked with Toronto-based singer-songwriter Simon Wilcox to help him work on his phrasing, but he says the transition from French music wasn't as difficult as he had anticipated. "Phonetically, it's obvious that it's easier to sing in English than it is in French," he explains. "Even when we were little, we were listening to English music because that's what is played everywhere. We're used to singing along to a song that we don't even know the meaning to."

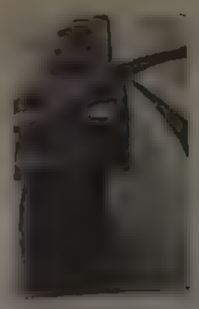
Before *Megaphobe*, Project Orange had a self-titled debut, which did incredibly well on the French market with its poetically raw brand of atmospheric rock. That album spawned four singles and earned the group a MuchMusic award for Best French Video, so making the leap in languages was quite a risk for the group, as they jeopardized alienating their original supporters. But Jean-Sebastien says although they had always thought they would eventually move over to English, the change caught even them by surprise. "When you're French Canadian and living in Quebec, you're marginalized to a very small audience," he notes. "Whereas if you record in English, you have the opportunity to play everywhere, plus it was a very, very cool challenge to do it. We had thought about going to English at some point, but we were actually recording our second album in French—it was almost done. But we did a couple more songs in English; BMG heard them, and they loved those songs, so they told us to start over again and write more English songs."

So, the brothers began rewriting and re-recording, but in the midst of their first setback came another, much more devastating one: Jean-Sebastien came down with blood poisoning, which caused his kidneys to shut down, and the album was once again delayed. "I had to go on dialysis—where they run all your blood through a machine—and I was totally out for six months," Jean-Sebastien explains. "My girlfriend also had her second baby the same day I got this terrible sickness."

But out of all the adversity, *Megaphobe*, a thoughtful, slightly experimental, rock record with dirty pop sensibilities and hear-aching harmonies, eventually got done. Jean-Christophe says the sound and content of their now hit album was influenced greatly by everything the brothers endured while tracking it. "Most of the songs were actually written after he got sick, so when I was writing lyrics it was such a huge thing," he says. "It taught me to think about life in a whole new way."

"You wake up every morning feeling blessed to be alive," Jean-Sebastien says, "so you want to do only those things that really mean something to you. It brought intensity to our lives and our music."





bpm

BY DAVID STONE

I don't know what it is, but when a year draws to a close, we all tend to reflect on the capsule of time that's gone by. What's more, 2004 has given all of us a lot to consider. Ask for a word to cap it all off, and most people might pick "divisive"—just look to how all the elections around the world turned out. America was split down the middle, Canada wound up with a minority government, and thousands have camped out in downtown Kiev to rally against what they see as the theft of democracy.

But club culture began to break down walls in 2004, as the music began to redefine itself on a global scale, embracing its roots and rediscovering the fun. It's safe to say that the key moment for dance music in 2004 came in August, when the world tuned into the television broadcast of the opening ceremonies for the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece. As the athletes paraded into the stadium, the music we heard wasn't the usual symphonic fanfare, but the epic strains of trance, spun by Dutch superstar **Tiësto**. Suddenly the music became a legitimate sound. Reports of disco's demise may have been exaggerated, it seems.

Our local epoch came when **Felix Da Housecat** visited the Standard. Whizzing his way through a genre-mashing set, the veteran DJ presided over the most eclectic crowd I've seen in years—jaded ravers shuffled alongside indie rockers with ecstatic results. A similar moment happened back in November when Turbo Recordings labelmates **Chromeo** and **Tiga** visited the Starlite Room/Victory Lounge within days of each other.

Bridging the gaps wouldn't have happened if you didn't have local champions like **Nik7** and the guys in **Dietzche V. and the Abominable Snowman** laying down the planks. Every Thursday at the Victory Lounge, Nik7's NRMLS WLCM club night proved that there was no reason why you couldn't hear hip hop, electro and punk alongside each other. In the case of DVAS—who are performing at NRMLS WLCM tonight (Thursday) to celebrate the release of their new 7" single on Pop Echo Records—rock and dance music have never been treated as mutually exclusive.

EDMONTON'S UNDERGROUND rock scene seemed to find its dancing feet this year, though. Listen to the groove-heavy tunage of The Floor, the static twang of AA Sound System, the abandon of Shout Out Out Out Out, the twitch of Bolide, the soul of the Gravity Collective, the angst of All Purpose Voltage Heroes and the sheen of Bebob Cortez, and you'll hear the lasting influence of bands like the Clash, who fearlessly abandoned the conventions of their day by embracing reggae and hip hop.

The notion of the DJ also transformed this past year. When **James Zabiela** dropped into Bar None earlier in December, he dazzled the crowd with his mastery of technology, reinventing the music as he was spinning it, using loops and effects like a digital Mozart. Back in the spring, **Way Out West** brought out their new vocalist Omi to their show at Escape, using laptops and keyboard controllers to twist up the music. Let's not forget about Canadian pioneer **John Acquaviva,** who rocked Globe using Final Scratch, a clever piece of mixing software he helped develop with old friend Richie Hawtin and has since been adopted by heavyweights like Paul Van Dyk.

This was also a year when local talent found an audience beyond the city limits. Guys like **Kristoff, Cartridge** and **Scott McFadyen** created music that struck a chord with labels in distant lands, proving that you didn't have to leave town to make an impression, and setting an example for other budding producers to keep banging away.

But the true sign that electronic music has the potential to rule came when **Tiësto** visited Escape. He might have rocked through a blinding set of trance and techno, but you only had to look at the packed room full of clubbers to understand that electronic music still has the power to thrill.

But the mission to keep that thrill going falls upon our local scene, which was kept alive over the past year by the promoters, clubs, DJs and artists who sacrificed time, money and their wits to make sure the music was always playing, and of course, thanks to all of you who supported them. It wasn't an easy year, but personally, I'm charged about what might happen in 2005, and what I might see when I step into another DJ booth and look out into a club. It's the end of the year as we know it, and I feel fine.

Didn't get what you wanted?



Well then you best attend the Boxing Day Party with Mark Jung and Jesse.

Ball invites all to meet with those who you haven't seen since last season. Welcome back.



Black Dog Productions
10425 - 82Ave



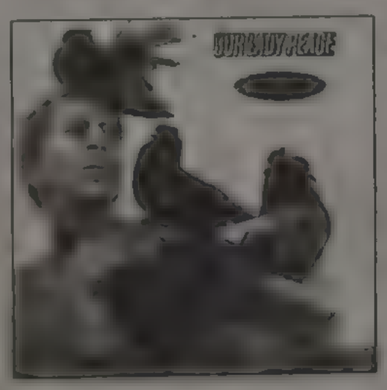
distant replay

BY STEVEN SANDOR

THIS WEEK: Long Way Down's Jack Grandy discusses Our Lady Peace's *Naveed*

Long Way Down is a St. Albert-based power quartet that should become more familiar to Edmontonians when they open for Social Code's New Year's Eve show at the Starlite Room. But for those who want to know what to expect before they head down to the gig, Long Way Down plays an unapologetic brand of rock 'n' roll, aimed at both the ears and abdomen. With heavy emphasis on guitar melodies and driving rhythms, Long Way Down's music will be a comfort for anyone who feels ostracized at places where mainstream rock is pooh-poohed. The band is still working on a full-length CD release to follow up their 2002 EP, *End of the Road*, but some new songs can be found at www.newmusiccanada.com.

For lead singer Jack "Jacko" Grandy, it was the work of Canadian rock superstars Our Lady Peace that first made him want to make a go at a music career. And even though Grandy wasn't even a teenager when the album first came out, hearing Raine Maida's signature, high-pitched vocals was enough to convince him he wanted to become a rock 'n' roll singer. "I would have to say that the 1995 album *Naveed*, from fellow Canadians Our Lady Peace, is the album that really inspired me to take my stab at life as a musician," says Grandy. "I was all of 12 when I first heard the title track 'Naveed' on the radio, and I was instantly captivated by the band's sound. I picked up the album almost immediately after."



"It has all the ingredients of a staple rock album," he continues, "but what really seemed to make it stand out in my mind was the incredible percussion from a then 18-year-old Jeremy Taggart and Raine Maida's soaring vocals. There were so many rhythmical hooks. Almost immediately, I was able to lose myself in the lyrics—I could sense that there was a lot of drive and a message behind this band."

With hit singles on the Canadian charts like the infectious rocker "Starseed" and the more mystical title track, which allowed Maida to show off his high vocal register, *Naveed* made Our Lady Peace Canada's heir to the our Home and Native Land's throne of rock. By 1997, the band's reach stretched across not only Canada but the United States as well, when the followup release, *Clumsy*, became a major international smash. Because of *Clumsy*'s success, Sony decided to release *Naveed*, which was not previously available to American audiences, in the United States two years after it was originally released. Because of this, much of the American fanbase considers *Naveed* to be the band's most inaccessible effort; it was thought to be an album too concerned with Maida's vocal trickery and song ideas, and so it has remained more abstract than anything the band has attempted since then. Because of the way *Naveed* was re-released in markets outside of Canada, it has become the album that most divides OLP fans.

While many American critics hail *Naveed* as the rather difficult prequel to *Clumsy*, Grandy, like most Canadian fans that watched the band progress through the last decade, sees it as an album that stands the test of time. For them, it is a passionate attempt to make rock music a lot more interesting than the humdrum. "It was evident that there was a definite passion for the music; so much so that it was reflective in the way it made me feel," Grandy says. "I got the butterflies-in-the-stomach feeling. That was when I really knew that I wanted to be a musician, and that I would do everything possible to make that dream come true. And here I am."

If you can't make it down to catch Long Way Down's New Year's Eve extravaganza with Social Code, they will also be playing January 15 at Red's.



a&b sound top 10 cd's

1) U2
HOW TO DISMANTLE AN ATOMIC BOMB
2) SHANIA TWAIN
GREATEST HITS
3) GWEN STEFANI
LOVE ANGEL MUSIC BABY
4) EMINEM
ENCORE
5) GREEN DAY
AMERICAN IDIOT
6) 2PAC
LOYAL TO THE GAME
7) ROD STEWART
STARDUST: GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK
8) NEIL YOUNG
GREATEST HITS
9) GEORGE STRAIT
50 NUMBER ONES(2CD)
10) NORAH JONES
FEELS LIKE HOME

a&b sound top 10 dvd's

1) LORD OF THE RINGS: RETURN OF THE KING
2) COLLATERAL (2DVD)
3) I, ROBOT
4) ELF (2DVD)
5) SPIDER-MAN 2 (2DVD)
6) SHREK 2
7) HARRY POTTER & THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN
8) TOP GUN COLLECTOR'S EDITION
9) STAR WARS TRILOGY (4DVD)
10) DODGEBALL

NEW SOUNDS







MOS DEF
THE NEW DANGER
(GEFFEN)

First off, Mos Def's newest album isn't really *his* album so much as it his ambitious side-project's new album. The group, Black Jack Johnson, is Mos's attempt at "truly" bringing rap and rock together—in Mos's terms, that means bringing them both back to their African-American roots, then putting them together.

The attempt is mildly successful, if fairly uneven. The album manages to sound more like '70s funk infused with hip hop (and all the necessary rock and blues influences) than a rapper trying to throw in some guitars, but for every time the combination works well, there is at least one song that sounds like the worst of the rap-rock genre. Not Limp Bizkit bad, mind you, but at least on par with the low points of Rage Against the Machine. Then there is, of course, the fact that the Roots already did this a few years ago on *Phrenology*, but that's just nitpicking, really.

The most disappointing part of this is that Mos Def is actually a fantastic MC, and his rock dabbling seriously subtracts from his lyrical skill. His biting, vitriolic rhymes are lost in a sea of guitar noodling, and while you can certainly admire him for wanting to go in new directions, it'd be nice if he left his side projects off his regular albums. ★★★ —Dave Berry

DIRTY VEGAS
DAVE
(CAPITOL)

Judging from their trashy-sounding name and glamorously sleazy cover art, which features a pair of luscious, sparkling lips licking a *Playboy* stamp, you'd probably expect to find some sort of gritty electroclash or angsty riff rock on this album. That assumption, however, couldn't be more wrong. Instead, what lies inside the deceiving packaging is a whimsical set of quiet, poppy and wholly inoffensive tracks that have about much emotional melodrama as the saddest of emo bands, only without any of the aggression. Rather, they almost sound neutered: there are lots of songs about wanting to walk a pretty girl home ("Home Again") and about how "the only thing worth living for is love" ("Roses"). Edgy.

There is some decent instrumentation here—there are some delicate strings on "Walking Into The Sun" and a variety of interesting harmonics and electronics sprinkled throughout—but as a whole, this album sounds too indifferent. There's no passion, no intensity, no hook; it just sort of chugs along. You can't really hate them because nothing about it is really bad, but you can't really love them because there really isn't anything great about it. ★★ —Heather Adler

WILL PREVILLE
WILLFUL
(INDEPENDENT)

It's not too often that you see a song about organ donation sharing the same jewel case with a track about the petroleum industry, but then again, Edmonton's own Will Preville isn't exactly typical. Preville is an ICU nurse who relieves the stresses of his work by crafting quirky, minimalistic little roots ditties, and the footprints of his day job are clearly displayed on the record, from the cover art which shows Preville in scrubs with a skeletal figure drawn over him, to the aforementioned song about organs, "Anatomical Gift," which tells the story of a girl named Josephine who cracked her head open in the shower, it all comes back to his daily experiences.

The recording itself is lo-fi, making it feel like you're listening in as Preville unwinds on the couch of a basement apartment somewhere in the winter, noodling softly on his guitar. His voice is smooth, floating from an almost jazzy croon and a folky falsetto in a single breath. Preville is a common sight on our city's open mic circuit, and part of this album was actually recorded live from Oscar's Pub back in May of 2004. There really isn't much differentiation from these live-off-the-floor tracks and those that were done in the studio—with the exception that the vocals are a little more hollow and echoey in the club recordings. It's honest, no-frills music that gives you a little musical voyeuristic thrill by allowing you a peek into the mind of just an average guy in the city. ★★★ —Tiffani Honeychurch

LUDACRIS
THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT
(DEF JAM)

To give you a hint of the level of innovation at the heart of Ludacris's new album, *The Red Light District*, the second song, "Number One Spot," frequently drops rhymes referencing the Austin Powers movies. Now, I'll grant, it's because the beat borrows samples from Quincy Jones's "Soul Bossa Nova," which was used as the theme song for Mike Myers's spy spoof, but still—that isn't exactly current or groundbreaking, considering the last movie in the trilogy came out almost three years ago.

Actually, that song is pretty much

stolli's
2ND FLOOR • 10368 WHYTE AVE.
WIRED WEDNESDAYS
LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEDNESDAY
25¢ DRAFT THURSDAYS!
25¢ DRAFT AND $3 DRINKS ALL NIGHT!
TOP 40 FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS!
$2 DRINKS UNTIL 11PM
BACARDI GRAS NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
EARLY BIRD TICKETS ONLY $5
CALL [illegible] TO BOOK YOUR BIRTHDAY, STAG, STAGETTE OR CHRISTMAS PARTY!
STOLLI'S $20 GIFT CERTIFICATE
VALID FOR YOU AND A GUEST BEFORE 10PM. LIMIT ONE PER PERSON.

listen records&cds
10649.124 street
780.732.1132
www.listenrecords.net
up to 50% off
boxing day(s) sale!!!
dec. 26 – dec. 27
sunday - monday
holiday hours
thurs dec 23 11 - 8
fri dec 24 11 - 6
sat dec 25 closed
sun dec 26 11 - 6
mon dec 27 11 - 6
sat jan 1 closed
sun jan 2 12 - 5
great gift ideas:
postal service: give up LP/CD | joy division: heart & soul box | interpol: antics LP/CD
stones throw 101 DVD | dfa compilation #2 3CD | styrofoam: nothing's lost LP/CD
matador @ 15 2CD+DVD | cat power: speaking for trees DVD+CD | posters
pavement: crooked rain crooked rain: la's derest origins 2CD | record brushes
elliott smith: from a basement.. LP/CD | arcade fire: funeral CD | record bags
go! team: thunder, lightning, strike CD | t-shirts | modest mouse: good news... LP/CD







the entire album summed up: it's a loud, funky beat that's meant to be blared out of a really expensive stereo system while driving slowly. Ludacris yields a-little-more-clever-than-average rhymes, but nothing new or different is brought to the genre. The truth is, if you like what Ludacris has done so far—and to be fair, it's usually better than most other mainstream rap, especially mainstream rap coming out of the southern states—you'll like this one, and if you don't like it—and, to be fair, he's always been fairly derivative and a little reliant on head-nodding beats and cheap laughs in his songs—then you won't like *Red Light District*. It's pretty much the same as anything else he's put out. ★½ —DAVE BERRY

LINDSAY LOHAN
SPEAK
(CASABLANCA/UNIVERSAL)

Lindsay Lohan's debut album is a fairly bland, over-produced pop-rock affair, lacking any of the real character or individuality that would help it stand out in the cluttered, homogenous ocean of uninspired pop music currently draining the western world of its will to live.

Lohan doesn't have much of a singing voice, and when she gets into the higher notes (on "Speak" in particular), she starts to screech like one of those horrible pseudo-lesbian Russian banshees in tATu. Her disc doesn't offer anything particularly new or original, and the lyrics are tediously inane. "I'm not ill/I don't need to/take a pill /to fix what you do..." Yep. Pretty bloody brilliant.

There are a few catchy tracks hidden in the rest of the drivel, but it just isn't enough to save the album. Any success that this disc sees will almost certainly be a result of her star power and sex appeal (which she tries, in a terribly tacky, corny way, to exploit in the hopefully ironic liner note photos), and not in any way because of the quality of the material on the disc. But she's *totally* hot, so all is forgiven. Right? *Right*? ★★ —IAIN ILICH

A PERFECT CIRCLE
A MOTION
(VIRGIN)

A Perfect Circle, the morbid brainchild of James Maynard Keenan of Tool fame and renowned songwriter Billy Howerdel, is the kind of band that actually might have a reason to release a DVD like this one. The band's exotic, cinematic rock masterpieces have ranked high on favourites lists of gloomy teenagers and off-kilter music lovers alike, but they aren't the sort of band you catch on the idiot box too often. Their videos, which are all included here, are artful, deliberately dark and strangely beautiful, and it's unlikely you've seen them on MuchMusic or MTV more than once or twice. There's some negligible bonus DVD material hereæa director's cut of "The Outsider" video, three alternate versions of the "Blue" video and three *Bikini Bandits* trailersæbut there's nothing too special about any of that.

APC is also a band that lends itself to remixesæthere are nine of those here on a bonus audio CD—because of their electronic influences and heavily layered sound. "The Outsider" ("Apocalypse" Mix) is one of the standout cuts with its heavier-than-hell drums, bass and guitar, which make the remake even darker than the original. ★★★½ —HEATHER ADLER

live at reds

friday january 21

ten second epic
&
drive by punch

with guests

doors 7pm
$8 advance / $10 door

all ages

tix on sale at red's and ticketmaster

west edmonton mall 481-6420

QUICK SPINS

BY WHITEY AND T.B. PLAYER

Hey, you cheap bastards, it's still not too late to pick up a few last-minute stocking stuffers—and who better to get your hard-earned bucks than these fine local musicians?

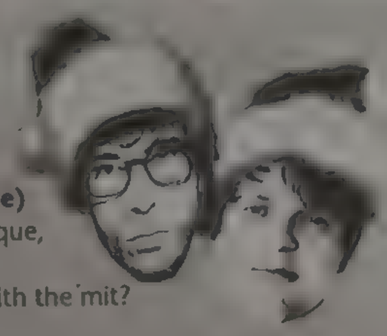
Division & Wellesley
***Save Me, Daylight Savings* (Beat Broker)**
Whitey: Solemn debut mit acoustic guitar. Charmed the pants off me.
TB: We won't hold that against it, though, cuz I think this disc rocks—in a quiet, subdued, totally not rocking kind of way.

Chris Andrew
***Not So Fast* (Indie)**
Whitey: Fantastic jazz pianist tinkles the ivories.
TB: Uh, don't you mean "tickles"?
Whitey: Yeah, whatever.

The Michael Edwards Band
***Close Enough* (Indie)**
TB: Fine, funky blues.
Whitey: But not Blueshammer!
TB: This is fortunately correct. These guys can play, but like to keep it on the tasteful side of the tracks.

The Uncas
***Sunny Uncas* (Indie)**
TB: Yee-ha, bitch.
Whitey: Any band that combines banjos and circular saws is top-notch in my books.
TB: Yeah, but they're no Jacky!....

The May Kings
***7 Yrs* (Indie)**
Whitey: It's about time these jerks released a record.
TB: Yeah, and it was worth the wait. Top-shelf Westerberg country.
Whitey: Indubitably.

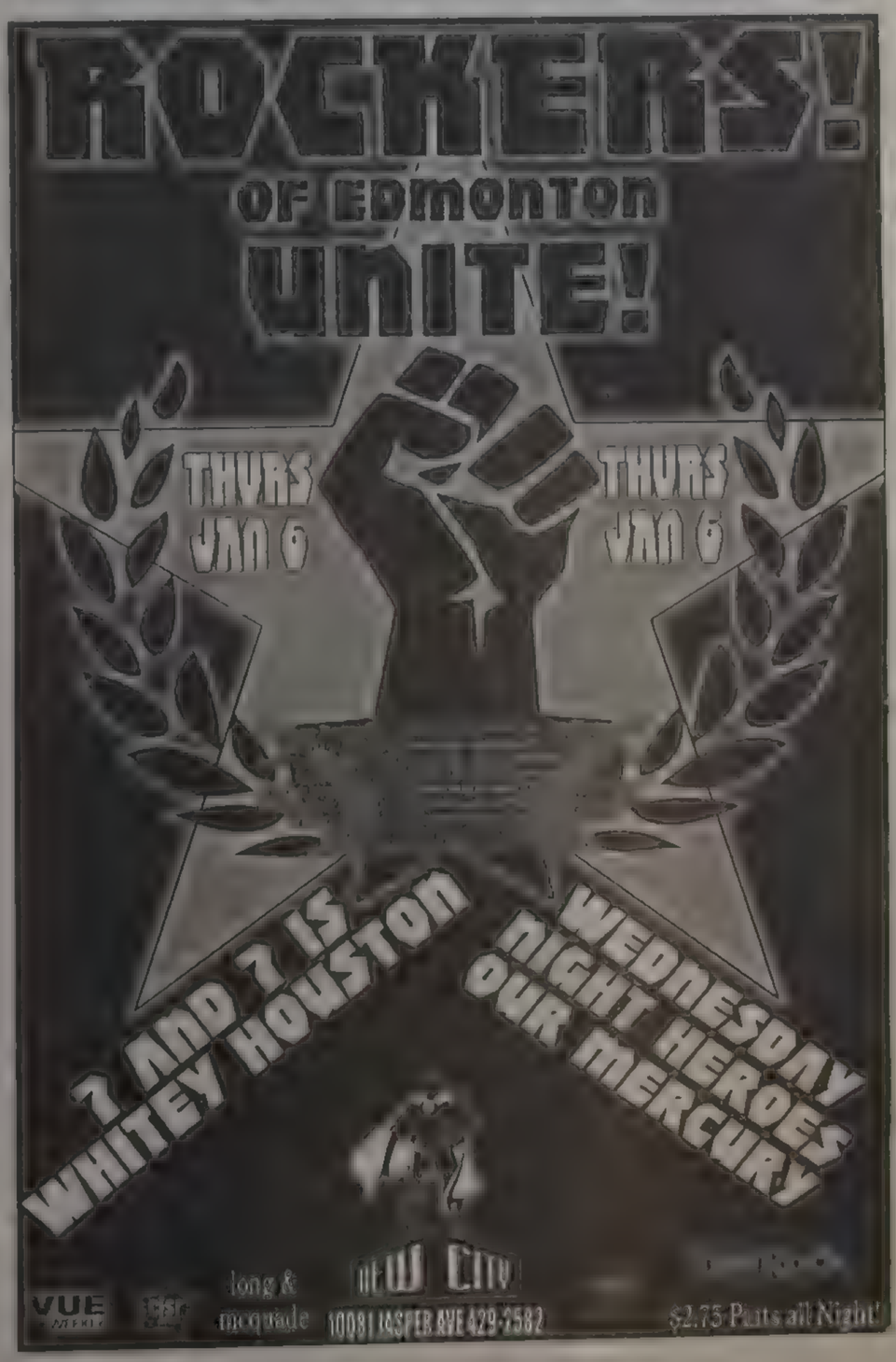


Colleen Brown
***A Peculiar Thing* (Indie)**
Whitey: Joni Mitchell-esque, but mit piano.
TB: Hey dude, what's with the mit?
Whitey: It's my style.
TB: Fair enough. Can I mention she's a looker?
Whitey: Sure. Hey! Put that away!
TB: Sorry....

Operators 780
Self-titled (Longshot)
TB: Edmonton's dub-punk kings unzip on their first full-length album.
Whitey: Are they punk-dub or dub-punk?
TB: Whatever, man, this album is rad. That's right; I said "rad."

AA Sound System
***Lily Plain You're Hardly Poor* (Indie)**
Whitey: Dude! I said put that away!
TB: Oops.
Whitey: Ok, jeez, you threw me off... where were we? Great local twang.
TB: Well, thank you.
Whitey: I meant the band.

eshöd ibn wyza
***Internal Mindscheme* (Little Whore)**
TB: Hippie-hop?
Whitey: But these dirty hippies got skillz.
TB: You're fired.





Fly me to the bargain bin

Scorsese unable to do much with Howard Hughes in enjoyable but forgettable *The Aviator*

By BILL BEARD

Martin Scorsese's new movie, ***The Aviator***, an opulent biography of Howard Hughes over a roughly 20-year period ending in 1947, runs for almost three hours and is very easy to watch. People never get tired of stories about Howard Hughes; after all, he was a rules-breaking entrepreneurial genius and deluded maniac who took the fortune he inherited from his father's oil-drill patents and blew millions in movie production and aviation while going through women like kleenex, leaving behind him universal astonishment and piles of wreckage

Spending an unprecedented $4 million and three years to shoot his World War I flying epic *Hell's Angels* was already an act of obsessive stubbornness, and Hughes moved on from there to develop speedplanes and set round-the-world flying records, embark on revolutionary and/or harebrained design projects for the US Air Force during World War II, fight movie censors over the cleavage on view in his western film *The Outlaw* and resist shark-like competitors and their political stooges over the postwar airlines business And on top of all that, he did this while suffering from a serious obsessive-compulsive disorder and bouts of severe paranoia that eventually landed him in his final two decades of reclusive craziness

THE AVIATOR, even while dwelling on its hero's mental imbalance, is pretty much forced to succumb to the charisma of the man, particularly when it's spending $100 million. So John Logan's screenplay, replaying elements we saw in his very strange script for *The Last Samurai*, presents Hughes as a tortured individualist, heroically persisting in the path of his own integrity despite a crumbling mind and a load of persecutors. For Scorsese, the character sort of resembles those who show up repeatedly in his best films: feverish, powerful, teetering on the edge of delusion, a martyr to his own intensity but not before he's inflicted a lot of damage on others. But neither Logan nor Scorsese can really understand what makes this guy tick. No matter how much time the movie spends watching Howard get excited over his airplanes or sit in seclusion surrounded by dozens of milk-bottles full of his own urine, it can never get into his head; it always has to revert back to

REVUE **BIOPIC**

the compelling spectacle of the man. And if he's merely a fascinating anomaly, he can't have any kind of symbolic significance—as maverick individualist, capitalist hero, tragic genius, man who had everything and lost it, or anything else.

The actually admirable characters of the story are Katharine Hepburn (Cate Blanchett) and Ava Gardner (Kate Beckinsdale), two brave, smart women who are generous enough to see Hughes as an inspiring child and a man in pain. Both of them project a humanity that you never see more than hints of in the protagonist. If Hughes often seems like a child trapped in a man's body (especially after the way the movie traces his neurosis to childhood experience), then Leonardo DiCaprio is always going to be a man trapped in a child's body. He gives it all he's got, but no matter how much hair-grease and period costuming they put on him, he still doesn't look old enough to get a drink without showing ID.

SCORSESE SAYS he took the project because it was all about early Hollywood—he loves that stuff—and he does go to town with period movie atmosphere. In a typically extravagant gesture, The Aviator's colour photography obsessively mimics the look of Hollywood Technicolor from the late '20s to the mid-'40s, beginning in heavily-stylized two-colour strangeness and progressing to the rich hues of immediate postwar period.

Period technology also exerts a potent attraction. I personally fell for the airfield full of Fokker D-VIIs and SE-5s that somebody lovingly reconstructed, and the fabulous steel-skinned racing monoplane from the '30s is even more seductive. The sequence where Hughes crashes his experimental Lockheed spyplane into the middle of Beverly Hills is thrilling. But all this does kind of beg the question as to just who Martin Scorsese is anymore anyway? As with so many of his projects over the past 15 years, this one seems more like a virtuoso exercise than a cri de coeur. He's turned into a Mannerist.

It's symptomatic of all the repression that's had to go on to make this movie that the story ends just at the point where Hughes was about to buy the RKO movie studio and, through his capricious and chaotic management style, grind it into the ground—though not before having it turn out a bunch of hysterical anti-communist movies and forcing all its employees to sign loyalty oaths. If anybody should be offended by what Hughes did in Hollywood, it's Scorsese. As for his contribution to film art, there are the air combat sequences of *Hell's Angels* and Jane Russell's cantilevered bra in *The Outlaw*, a movie once rightly described as "more to be pitied than censored." He did produce the 1932 film *Scarface* and give some work to the great Josef von Sternberg when nobody else would have him, but that's not much, really, for the man who destroyed RKO.

As with *Bringing Out the Dead* and even the preposterous *Gangs of New York*, I enjoyed *The Aviator* quite a lot, but I can't say I respected myself in the morning.

THE AVIATOR
Directed by Martin Scorsese • Written by John Logan • Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett and Kate Beckinsdale • Opens Sat, Dec 25



Flying off the handle

It's easy to get carried away by balletic *House of Flying Daggers*

By DARREN ZENKO

It's hard not to get carried away into hyperbole when you start describing Zhang Yimou's ***House of Flying Daggers***, same as it was with his *Hero* before this, and Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* before that. A couple sentences in and you're uncrating words like "sumptuous" and "balletic" as you fall all over yourself to convey the grace and beauty of modern grade-A martial-arts cinema. It gets embarrassingly wanky, so instead let's try *hypo*bole, deliberate gross understatement: *House of Flying Daggers* is pretty, and has some decent fight scenes.

REVUE **MARTIAL ARTS**

The film's Chinese title, *Shi mian mai fu*, translates literally as "ambush on ten sides", and that should give you an idea of the kind of action you're in for as you follow Zhang's story of betrayal, escape, flight, hidden agendas, doomed love and other melodramatic staples. Hordes of soldiers close in on outnumbered heroes, throngs of assassins fill forests with deadly missiles, frightening odds get beaten through the power of awesome kung-fu. You'd think these scenes of massed assailants and multiple targets would get confusing, but Zhang is always as aware of *where* everything is as he is of *what colour* everything is, and he makes you aware of it, too; it's possible to track a single dagger through three or more scenes. And when combat gets more intimate, it's pure, wonderful superheroic fantasy.

I have a real soft spot for martial-arts movies featuring kickass superweapons. The titular decapitator of *Master of the Flying Guillotine* comes to mind, as does *Crouching Tiger*'s blade Green Destiny; in *House of Flying Daggers* it's all about the eponymous airborne knives. Zhang's touch makes these wicked shivs crackle with power every time we see them, even when they're sheathed. When they're unsheathed, nothing stands in their way. They swoop and boomerang, ricochet to slit throats; they have a life of their own. They're characters, symbols, tools, plot devices and, ultimately and finally, stone-cold murder weapons.

BEFORE, AFTER, DURING AND surrounding all this gorgeous leaping and throwing and kicking and shooting and general ass-kicking, there's a earnestly plot-twisty melodramatic tragedy of love, lies and betrayal, and here's where some people are going to have trouble. By Hollywood's "classy drama" standards, *House*'s story is simplistic and emotionally overwrought, twisting in obvious ways to illustrate hokey themes. What's some people's problem? This is a Chinese romantic melodrama, and *that's what you get.* Does an anciently elemental story of doomed love need a scene where Andy Lau's police captain breaks down in tears while remembering his alcoholic father, or a sickly child whose courage inspired a nation? No. I'll agree that there's something missing from *House*'s drama, because there is: when the legendary Anita Mui died of cancer during filming, her character was written/edited out. That might be why the emotional structure of the film feels a bit like a tent with one tent-peg missing; it's not the fault of its classical form. The tragic character's "arc" is existential—they start the movie alive, they end it dead—and his/her motivations are similarly primal.

If anything, *House of Flying Daggers* worries me because it may be *too* deep and meaningful and beautiful and balletic and precious; it represents a continued shift in martial-arts filmmaking—or in the public's taste in martial-arts filmmaking—toward romantic fantasy and away from hard-scrabble kung-fu. The prettiness and heartbreak of *House* and *Hero* and *Crouching Tiger* and likewise makes something in me yearn for the old Shaw Bros. chop-socky, the showdown in the temple courtyard, the billowing clouds of impact powder and dialogue like "This school... is no good! Ha ha ha!"; "What did you say?! I'll beat you!" Then I sit down and watch a bunch of old martial-arts flicks and don't feel so worried; Zhang Yimou would have to make three lifetimes' worth of his precious sword-ballets to tip the balance of kung-fu cinema away from its roots. Plus, those flying daggers really are *totally* awesome.

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
Directed by Zhang Yimou • Written by Feng Li and Bin Yang • Starring Takeshi Kaneshiro, Zhang Ziyi and Andy Lau • Opens Fri, Dec 24

Darkest of the hillside Snickets

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events offers gloomy holiday fare

BY **STEPHEN NOTLEY**

Early on, ***Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*** advises anybody who wants to see a movie about happy elves to leave, that this is not a happy movie. Indeed, as it kicks off with three children finding out their home and parents have burned to the ground, one could say it's a rather *un*happy movie. But at the same time, it's neither grim nor despairing; somehow it splits the middle and ends up at... curious.

The three children in question are the Baudelaires—Violet, the premiere 14-year-old inventor in the world, Klaus, a voracious reader, and infant Sunny, a voracious biter. After they get their first bit of bad news about the whole fire thing, they're treated to their second, which is that they're being transferred to the guardianship of hideous distant relative and actor Count Olaf, played by Jim Carrey. Olaf, of course, wants to murder them and take their inheritance, and one Unfortunate Event later, the children bounce out of his care and into the home of another oddball distant relative, whereupon Olaf shows up in disguise and tries to get them, bouncing them on to the next oddball distant relative.

A Series of Unfortunate Events isn't structured so much as a movie as what it actually is, the first three books of a series, and as a result the movie tends to break down into basic elements and setpieces. The books, incidentally, are *A Bad Beginning*, *The Reptile Room* and *The Wide Window*,

REVUE **SADNESS**

which translates on the screen as Jim Carrey at Olaf's Place, Billy Connolly in the Reptile Room, and Meryl Streep in the Big Rickety House On Stilts Hanging Over A Cliff.

The movie looks great. It's got the same visual audacity of films like *The Cat in The Hat* and *The Grinch*, but applied with taste instead of garish hate; it's nice to see a children's movie use a more subdued color palate for once. Each new home and environment is bursting with decaying detail, whether it's Olaf's kitchen with junk everywhere and drawers full of rusty scissors and loose pasta, Billy Connolly's herpetological heaven full of two-headed cobras, three-eyed frogs and strangely cuddlesome snakes, or Meryl Streep's dim house of dangers, with refrigerators that flatten and doorknobs that shatter, this movie is a set decorator's dream job.

JIM CARREY IS PRETTY GOOD as Olaf, a vain scarecrow of a figure, bristling with eyebrows and horny wisps of hair. It's a relatively restrained performance from Carrey, with little hooting or hollering, relying more on grinding teeth and big-eyed stares to hit his marks; less entertaining, but not offensively so, are his other two incarnations as a stiff yellow-jacketed imposter herpetologist and a Popeyeish imposter sea-dog. Billy Connolly as snakedraped Uncle Morty is avuncular and welcoming, and Meryl Streep is batty but likable as fearfilled Aunt Josephine.

Oft-ignored, shuttled about like baggage through all these huge impressive sets and piles of props and over-the-top performances from big-name-actors, are the children themselves. Their scenes break down into one of two types: them standing in a polite long-suffering row while an adult babbles on in front of them, and engineering ingenious escapes from Olaf-sponsored Unfortunate



Events. With so much attention paid to all the elements surrounding them, it's surprising they come through as strongly as they do, especially in the case of nascent star Emily Browning. With her round face and steady eyes, she's equally as effective at holding the screen as Carrey, even when she's just standing there.

So we've got interesting performances, fabulous set designs and a cool visual style, and yet somehow it's not clear if *A Series of Unfortunate Events* really amounts to much. We approve of the children, admire their ingenuity, and are amused by the various geegaws and whatsits they encounter, but the film evades deep feeling, going neither for contrived happiness or serious pain. It's an intricate and amusing clockwork, a useful antidote to the typical cloying holiday entertainments, but in the end, it never quite catches fire.

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
Directed by Brad Silberling • Written by Robert Gordon and based on the novels by Daniel Handler • Starring Emily Browning, Liam Aiken and Jim Carrey • Now playing

The *Phantom* menace

Oddly-timed *Phantom of the Opera* remake barely makes a case for its own existence

BY **STEPHEN NOTLEY**

At this stage of Earth's development, a ***Phantom of the Opera*** movie seems a bit redundant. Sure, *Phantom* was a huge hit when it came to the stage in the late '80s, and any time during the '90s would have been fine for a film adaptation, but now, in the tender 2000s, *Phantom*'s overblown bombast sounds almost like parody; it seems impossible to take it seriously.

Nonetheless, the *Phantom of the Opera* movie exists, directed by Joel Schumacher of Batman and Robin infamy. It's probably a fair bet that anybody who's interested in seeing this movie comes to it with some affection for the original score, so you'd think all the film really needs to do is provide that score along with some vaguely relevant imagery—kind of like a karaoke video. Well, *Phantom of the Opera* does this, so on a basic level it succeeds.

It's only when you start taking a look at the details, the nuts and bolts of the film, that it begins to clunk. The biggest clunk, unfortunately, is Scottish prettyman Gerard Butler as the Phantom. We've glimpsed Butler in films like *Dracula 2000* and *Reign of Fire*, and there's no question he's a handsome man. But good looks aren't what you need in a Phantom. A startling voice and huge screen presence are a hell of a lot more important, and whether it's Butler's deficiencies or Schumacher's

REVUE **SPECTACLE**

mushy direction, this Phantom comes off looking rather small and impotent. Certainly it's hard to take lyrics like "Stranger than you dreamt it/Can you even dare to look/or bear to think of me/This loathsome gargoyle..." seriously when delivered by Butler wandering around with his hand indifferently clapped over the right side of his face.

On the other side we have Christine Daae, the innocent ingénue ensnared by the Phantom's spell, originally played on stage by Sarah Brightman. Here she's played by charming 18-year-old ingénue Emmy Rossum, who made her debut just last summer in the unfortunate *The Day After Tomorrow*. Classically trained, Rossum has a beautiful, beautiful voice, like ribbons of silk, perfect for the role. Her face, on the other hand, is a bit of a problem, not in that it's not gorgeous enough (it is), but in that it seems fixed in one expression, a blank-eyed fascination. True, Christine spends a lot of time getting mesmerized, but Rossum seems capable of being mesmerized by anything that happens to be in front of her, equally fascinated by the Phantom crooning "The Music of the Night" or a night-table.

ROUNDING OUT the pretty list is Patrick Wilson as Christine's non-Phantom lover Raoul. Raoul is supposed to come off as a bit of a lightweight compared to the Phantom, but since the movie's Phantom is already pretty insubstantial that means Raoul gets downgraded to little more than a puff of air, and indeed Wilson looks like he made the film in between set breaks on a styling gel commercial.

Schumacher, at least on big-picture productions, has always been a messy director, building huge sets then shooting everything in cramped closeups, indulging in details of questionable taste (Batman's nipples, anyone?), and in *Phantom of the Opera* he never quite reconciles the ephemerality of his main cast with the earnest passions of the music. His real enthusiasm is reserved for the scenes with Minnie Driver as Carlotta, aging diva and



rival to Christine. Driver's Carlotta is way over the top, more like an SCTV character than an "actual" performance, and those are the scenes where Schumacher cuts loose and has fun, adorning Driver with feathers, carrying her around the stage on a litter, getting her to roll her eyes and torture her cockney Italian accent just that little bit further. Whether it's fun for the audience is another matter, but it's clearly where Schumacher's heart lies.

Clunky and insubstantial as *Phantom of the Opera* is, it still has its charms. The film opens well, starting in black and white with an auction scene set years after the main events, switching to colour as the huge chandelier is raised, hot winds blowing dusty age off the seats and fixtures, restoring color and light as the overture soars, a wonderful visual even if the movie never achieves anything that good again.

If you like the music, the music is there in full movie-theatre sound, and Rossum's voice is good enough to excuse her mindless stare. *Phantom* fans could do worse than to check it out; non-*Phantom* fans were never interested in the first place.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by Joel Schumacher • Written by Andrew Lloyd Webber • Starring Emmy Rossum, Gerard Butler and Patrick Wilson • Now playing



The perfect score

Two of Hollywood's top composers talk about the art of setting films to music

By PAUL MATWYCHUK AND DARREN ZENKO

It can't be a coincidence that so many of the great auteurs in film history have had long collaborative relationships with great film composers. You could even make the case that when we try to define those directors' "styles," what we're really thinking about is the music that accompanied their images. After all, would Steven Spielberg be Steven Spielberg without the sentimental *Boy's Big Book of Classical Music* sounds of John Williams? Would Federico Fellini movies feel the same without the lushly eccentric circus music of Nino Rota? And God knows what Sergio Leone would have done if Ennio Morricone hadn't come along.

We talked to two of Hollywood's current top film composers this week, and while both of them have long and eclectic filmographies, they're each still most closely associated with one particular director: **Carter Burwell** *(*whose work can most recently be heard in *Kinsey)* is the Coen Brothers' house composer, while **Mark Mothersbaugh** *(The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou)* is best-known for his work with Wes Anderson. They're two of the industry's most prolific and talented behind-the-scenes professionals; listen in as they conduct a master class on the art of film composing.

CARTER BURWELL

Notable scores: *Blood Simple, Raising Arizona, Miller's Crossing, Fargo, The Spanish Prisoner, Gods and Monsters, Velvet Goldmine, Being John Malkovich, Three Kings, Adaptation, Kinsey*

"If they could," laughs Carter Burwell, "I think the Coen Brothers would prefer to write the music for their movies themselves. But fortunately they're not entirely comfortable doing that, so they call me."

When the Coens first called him, however, Burwell wasn't a film composer at all; he was a computer animator and part-time rock musician who'd dabbled in writing scores for New York dance and theatre companies. "Skip Lievsay, the sound editor on *Blood Simple,* knew the music I was doing in bands and he asked me if I'd be interested in writing the music for that film," Burwell recalls. "I fell into it, basically—it wasn't something I'd planned. At the time, there wasn't much of an independent film scene and so we expected that even if the film got finished, it wouldn't get much of theatrical distribution. So we were all pleasantly surprised when it did, and then people started calling to ask me to work on other films. Tony Perkins was directing *Psycho III* and wanted me to write the music, and then Joel and Ethan asked me to do *Raising Arizona,* and around that point I realized that you could actually make a living doing this."

BURWELL HAS WRITTEN MUSIC for every single Coen Brothers movie since then—his masterpiece is probably the score for *Miller's Crossing,* whose majestically lilting main theme, with its subtle hints of "Danny Boy," continues to be a favourite amongst those guys who put together movie trailers. The success of that score has been a bit of a mixed blessing for Burwell: "When that movie came out," he says, "I got a lot of calls to do big orchestral scores. But my background is more in electronic music—I wish I would get more offers to do weird electronic scores, but that's not what people identify me with anymore."

Burwell is a hipster in traditionalist's clothing, which made him a shrewd choice to compose the score for *Kinsey,* Bill Condon's biopic about the bowtied Midwestern entomology professor who found unlikely fame and notoriety as American's leading sexologist. "He's not a very expressive character," Burwell says. "It's not unusual for a composer to have to deepen the emotional life of a character, but when you have a character who's that inexpressive, it's probably a more fulfilling job. So I began to map out what I thought were the important aspects of his personality that needed to be stated musically: his love of nature, for instance. Practically the whole first reel of the movie is dedicated to him growing up, being a Boy Scout, sketching animals in the forest. And I thought it was important to establish a theme that would connect to his feelings about nature which I could call upon later to remind audiences that he views human sexuality as just an aspect of nature. And I wanted the music to evoke

"Some people assume the composer's job is to mirror or augment the action taking place onscreen. I prefer to think that my job is to bring out something that's *not* onscreen...."
—Carter Burwell, composer for *Kinsey*



"The orchestra directions from Wes [Anderson] were, 'See if you can make the orchestra sound as much like Casio synthesizers as possible....'" —Mark Mothersbaugh, composer for *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*

that time and place—it's not as though I modelled it after a particular period, but I wanted it to have the feeling of a Protestant hymn, a feeling of Americana."

It's during his discussion of the *Kinsey* score that Burwell comes closest to stating his personal philosophy of film music: "Some people assume the composer's job is to mirror or augment the action taking place onscreen," he says. "I prefer to think that my job is to bring out something that's *not* onscreen.... There's a period in film scoring that people often refer to as the Golden Age—back in the '30s and '40s, when Erich Korngold, Max Steiner and Franz Waxman were doing film music. They're beautiful scores, but they're often telling you what's happening onscreen—not just while it's happening, but often *before* it happens. And I really dislike that. I hate having someone tell me what's going to happen so that I don't have the option of experiencing it personally. I think a lot of film scores are added just to comfort the audience and make sure they're not confused at any moment. I object to that; I think that state of confusion is a precious state and it should be respected." (PM)

MARK MOTHERSBAUGH

Notable scores: *Pee-Wee's Playhouse, The New Age, Bottle Rocket, Happy Gilmore, Rushmore, The Royal Tenenbaums, Thirteen, The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou*

For Mark Mothersbaugh, award-winning television and film composer, musician, artist and founding member of legendary Akron, Ohio, synth-punk/"New Wave"/weirdo band Devo, creating the score for Wes Anderson's *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* was, if not a full de-evolution, a return to musical roots.

"I've done all of Wes' movies," says Mothersbaugh from the mysterious offices of Mutato Musika, his Los Angeles studio, "and this is the first time I've ever used an electronic instrument on a Wes Anderson score. When he was writing, he told me there was going to be this composer [in the film] that was going to be writing this '70s cheesy electronic-industrial music. It gave me an excuse to go down in the basement and pull out all the old Devo analog synthesizers out of roadcases and set them up all over the studio.

"We used Optigans, Korg MS20s, Minimoogs, ARP Odysseys, EMLs and an EMS suitcase synth like the kind Brian Eno used with Roxy Music in the old days," he continues. "I listened to a lot of, like, 'adventure music' and then, for a band sound, Wes was saying he'd been listening to the band Suicide, and I knew them 'cause we used to play on the same bill at Max's Kansas City back in the mid-'70s. So that was fun, kind of playing in that style; very simple analog synth sounds.

"So then when we got to the orchestral part, where there's this big chase scene, this composer that's in the film, Wolodarsky (Noah Taylor), he writes this kind of dated '70s adventure music. Well then this music that you hear him putting into one of the films that they're making inside the film turns into this orchestral version that grows out of it when they attack the island to try to get back their bond-company stooge who's been kidnapped. The orchestra directions from Wes were, 'See if you can make the orchestra sound as much like Casio synthesizers as possible in the beginning.'"

BEFORE HOOKING UP with Anderson on 1996's *Bottle Rocket*, Mothersbaugh had already scored scores of films, videogames and television shows, notably Nickelodeon kids' cartoon *Rugrats* and its spinoff movies, and a little show called *Pee-Wee's Playhouse*.

"I'd been a friend of Paul Reubens for a number of years before he did a TV show," Mothersbaugh recalls. "He was going to do a stage show with this character he'd developed called Pee-Wee Herman, and he asked me if I'd score his stage show. But Devo was really busy; that was like 1980 or something, and we were getting lots of radio play in the US at the time, so we were touring constantly, we were all over the world. He got the TV show right at the time Devo had just signed a contract with a... with our version of the Titanic. We'd left Warner and Virgin and gone to some company called Enigma. As soon as we got there, we knew we were in trouble. We sat on the deck of the boat with about 30 other bands and watched it sink. So when he said 'Do you want to score my TV show,' I thought, Hey, that sounds like fun! So I wrote a theme song with him and we got Cyndi Lauper to sing it, and then I scored about half the episodes.

"Every other episode was a guest composer. So people like Cliff Martinez, who was originally from the Chili Peppers and then went on to become quite a composer himself, he did an episode, and [revolutionary bassist and composer] Stanley Clark did an episode, and Danny Elfman did an episode, Todd Rundgren did an episode, the Residents did an episode, George Clinton did an episode. It was a fun project. I wasn't really the music supervisor, I was more of the clean-up hitter. I think George Clinton went to jail halfway through scoring his episode so I finished it off for him; I think we might have won an Emmy together.

"[*Pee-Wee's Playhouse*] sent me on an odd trajectory, because I hadn't really made any plans on anything post-Devo. I just always thought I was going to be doing Devo all the time. So with *Pee-Wee's Playhouse*, and a couple of commercials I'd done that year that I'd won Clios for... I just kind of fell forward into television and film. It was fun—totally different from being in a band."

COMPARED TO THE GRIND and exhaustion of the recording/touring industry and its associated "so-called benevolent parasites," the pace of TV work was refreshingly liberating, and lucrative, for the burnt-or-burning-out Morthersbaugh.

"What I liked about TV, the *Pee-Wee's Playhouse* episodes, is I'd get a tape from New York on Tuesday and I'd watch it, and then on Wednesday I'd write and record the music for a whole episode, and then on Thursday I'd send it out to New York. They'd drop it into the show on Friday, and Saturday we'd watch it on TV already. That was like, I wrote almost as much music as you'd write for an entire album in one week. So your adrenaline was really pumped up, as opposed to sitting in the studio redoing the same vocal track for, like, a month. This had more of a challenge to it. That's what lured me into writing for TV."

When Mothersbaugh was shown *Bottle Rocket* for the first time, he knew he and newcomer Anderson were meant to work together, and it wasn't only because of the very Devoesque yellow jumpsuits the film's inept burglars sported. "I was watching this film," Mothersbaugh recalls, "thinking 'This is a nice take on our culture right now and what's going on in America, and it was to me more interesting than the Matt Dillon movies that were being made at the exact time. And I liked his choice of temp music. It was kind of really odd, and things you'd never heard, and they were taken out of context and became even more interesting."

They met and hit it off, and from that point on Mothersbaugh was instrumental in helping the director find the feel of his films. "He'd never worked with a composer before," says Mothersbaugh, "so we started off with a very small circle of instruments and players, and each movie we added more players and more instruments to our repertoire, until this one when we finally came around to using electronics."

Electronics, and a full orchestra *imitating* electronics. "Orchestral instruments just sound so traditional," Mothersbaugh laughs. "It makes your music sound really *important*." (DZ)



THAI MASSAGE WORKSHOP

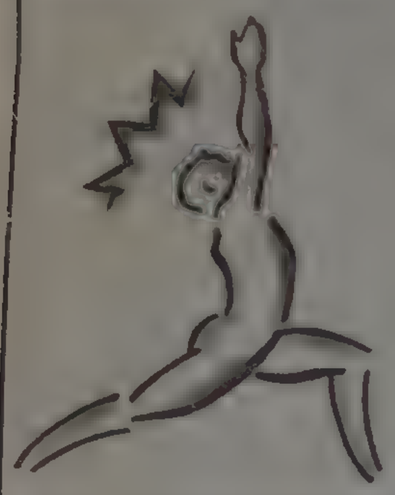
with

Ken Strachan

Feb 11-13, 2005

Check the website for more details

www.edmontonyogastudio.com



yoga

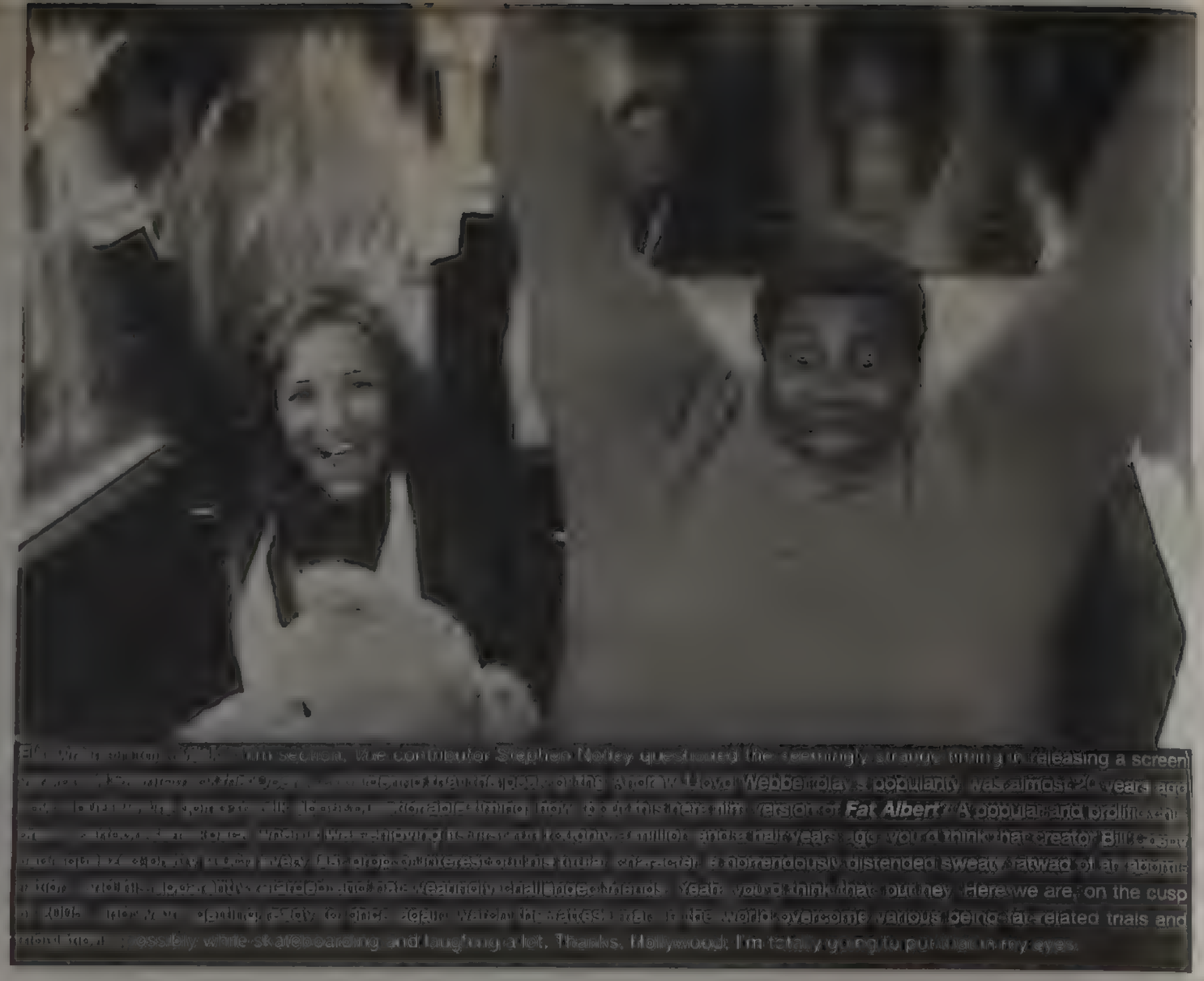
EDMONTON YOGA STUDIO

Hatha Iyengar Ashtanga

tel 451.8131

12039 – 127 Street

www.edmontonyogastudio.com



Eli Wallach and Anne Jackson, the contributor Stephen Notley questioned the seemingly strange timing of releasing a screen[illegible] Andrew Lloyd Webber play's popularity was almost 20 years ago[illegible] version of ***Fat Albert?*** A popular and prolific cast[illegible] Yeah, you'd think that creator Bill Cosby[illegible] very few projects in the intervening years, a horrendously distended sweaty fatwad of an egotistic[illegible] Yeah, you'd think that, but hey. Here we are, on the cusp[illegible] Thanks, Hollywood. I'm totally going to pursue my eyes.

metro CINEMA

Metro Cinema is Closed December 21 - January 6

Enjoy the holiday season!

AND COMING SOON...



All Metro screenings are held at Zeidler Hall in the Citadel Theatre, 9828-101 A Ave.
For more information, call 425-9212, or log on to www.metrocinema.org.

Metro operates with the support of:

Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des Arts du Canada

FILM WEEKLY

THIS WEEK'S NEW MOVIES

The Aviator Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, Alan Alda, Kate Beckinsdale and Alec Baldwin star in *Goodfellas* director Martin Scorsese's epic biography of high-flying tycoon Howard Hughes, especially his youthful infatuation with building airplanes, making movies and dating beautiful actresses, and his encroaching battle with obsessive-compulsive syndrome. Read Bill Beard's review on page 36.

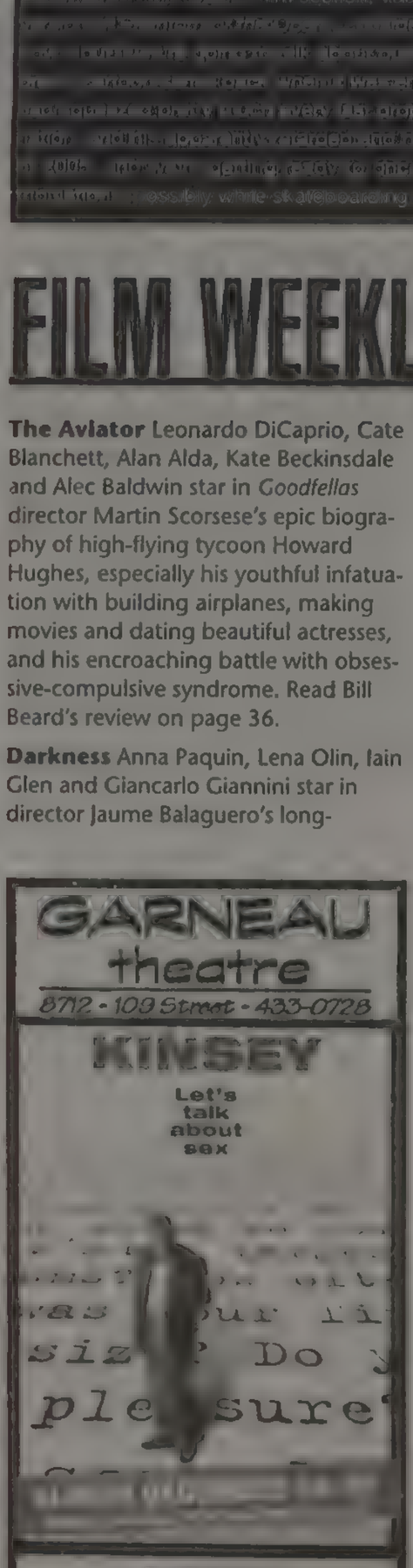
Darkness Anna Paquin, Lena Olin, Iain Glen and Giancarlo Giannini star in director Jaume Balaguero's long-shelved horror flick about a teenaged girl whose family moves into a gloomy, remote countryside house whose walls, she learns, conceal a horrifying secret that threatens to destroy them all.

House of Flying Daggers Zhang Ziyi, Andy Lau and Anita Mui star in *Hero* director Zhang Yimou's visually rapturuous martial arts epic, set in ninth-century China, about two police deputies who both fall in love with a beautiful blind dancer with ties to a revolutionary faction, and who help concoct a plan to save her from capture. In Mandarin with English subtitles. Read Darren Zenko's review on page 36.

The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Anjelica Huston, Cate Blanchett, Willem Dafoe and Jeff Goldblum star in *The Royal Tenenbaums* director Wes Anderson's whimsical ensemble comedy about a renowned oceanographer contending with a nosy journalist and a man claiming to be his long-lost son during an ill-advised mission to track down and kill the jaguar shark who ate his onetime partner.

GARNEAU theatre

8712 - 109 Street - 433-0728



KINSEY

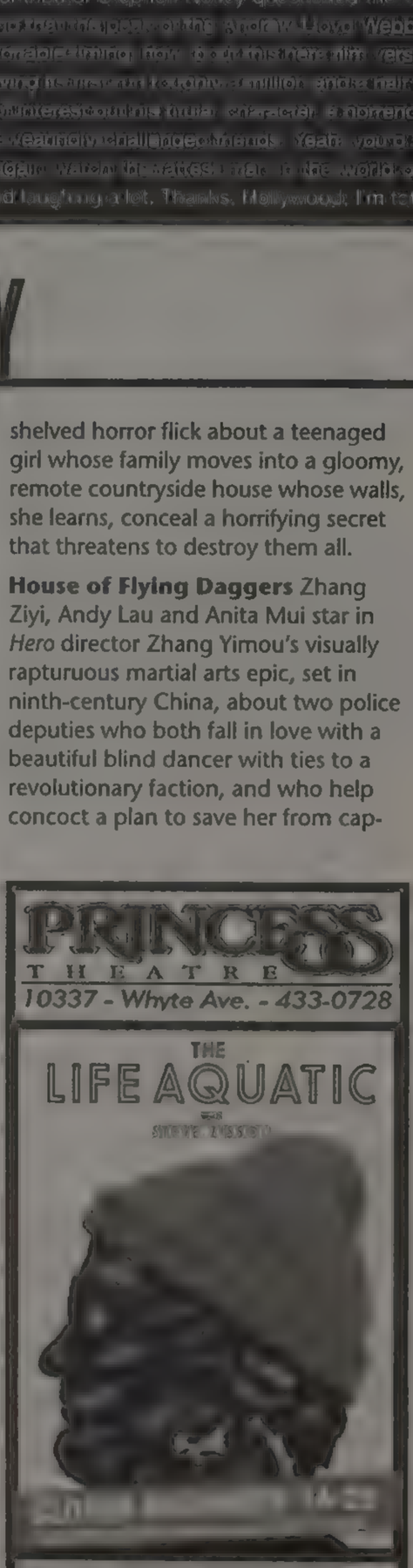
Nightly 7:00 & 9:20 pm

Sun Matinee 2:00 pm

•18A• (sexual content)

PRINCESS THEATRE

10337 - Whyte Ave. - 433-0728



THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU

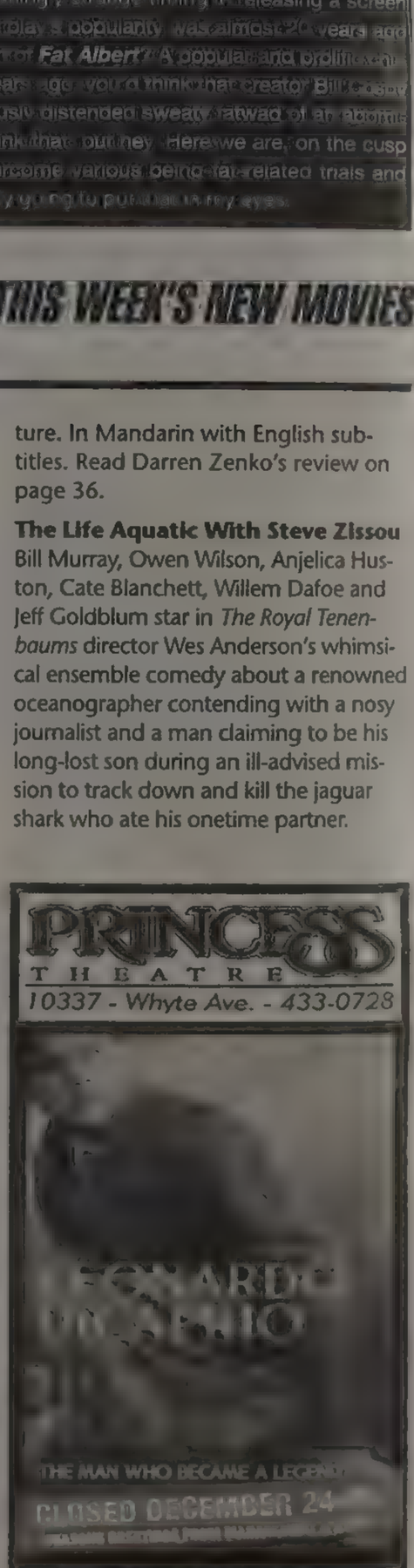
Nightly 7:00 & 9:15 pm

Sun Matinee 2:30 pm

•14A• (coarse language throughout)

PRINCESS THEATRE

10337 - Whyte Ave. - 433-0728



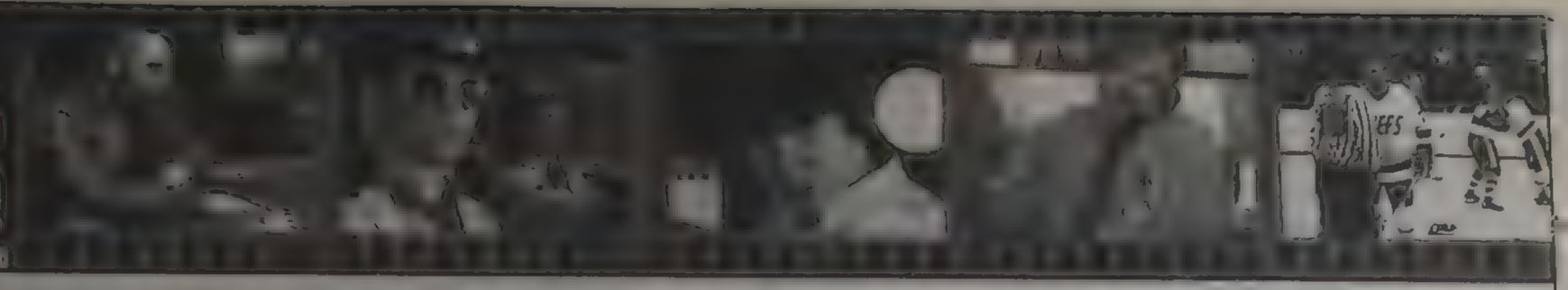
THE AVIATOR

Nightly 6:45 & 9:30 pm

Sun Matinee 2:00 pm

•PG• (mature content not recommended for young children)

FILM LISTINGS



Showtimes for Friday, December 24 to Thursday, December 30

All showtimes are subject to change at any time. Please contact theatre for confirmation.

GARNEAU

8712-109 St, 433-0728

KINSEY 18A
[illegible] Sun Thu 7:00 9:20 Sun 2:00

PRINCESS

10337-82 Ave, 433-0728

THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU 14A
[illegible] throughout. Sun-Thu 7:00 9:15
[illegible]

THE AVIATOR PG
[illegible] not recommended for young children
[illegible] 9:30 Sun 2:00

GRANDIN THEATRE

Grandin Mall, Sir Winston Churchill Ave, St. Albert, 459-9822.

[illegible] subject to change after the date of this issue. Thu Dec [illegible] Please contact theatre for showtimes

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
[illegible]

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
[illegible]

BLADE: TRINITY 18A
Thu 12:30 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:40

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Coarse language. Thu 1:15 3:45 7:15 9:40

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Coarse language, violence.
Thu 12:45 2:55 5:10 7:20 9:30

SPANGLISH PG
Coarse language, mature theme.
Thu 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:25

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Thu 12:40 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:20

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Crude content, sexual language.
Thu 2:30 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:40

LEDUC CINEMAS

[illegible] St, Leduc, 986-2728

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Daily 7:00 9:20 Sat Sun 1:15 3:35

SPANGLISH PG
Coarse language, mature theme.
Daily 6:50 9:30 Sat Sun 1:10 3:40

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Crude content, sexual language.
Daily 7:05 9:25 Sat Sun 1:05 3:25

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Sat Sun 1:00

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Coarse language. Daily 7:10 9:30 Sat Sun 3:40

WETASKIWIN CINEMAS

[illegible]

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Daily 7:00 9:20 Sat Sun 1:15 3:35

SPANGLISH PG
Coarse language, mature theme. Daily 6:50 9:30 Sat Sun 1:10 3:40

MEET THE FOCKERS 18A
Crude content, sexual language. Daily 7:05 9:25 Sat Sun 1:05 3:25

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Sat Sun 1:00

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Coarse language. Daily 7:10 9:30 Sat Sun 3:40

CINEMA PLUS

#490 140 St Albert Rd, 460-1646

[illegible] showtimes listed are for the date of this issue, Thu Dec [illegible] Please contact theatre for showtimes.

THE NOTEBOOK PG
Suggestive scenes. Thu 6:45 9:10

SAW R
Disturbing content.
Thu 3:40 9:05

SEED OF CHUCKY 18A
Gory scenes. Thu 6:50

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW PG
Thu 7:20 9:35

I HEART HUCKABEES 14A
[illegible]
Thu 7:10 9:40

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE G
[illegible]

SHARK TALE G
[illegible]

TAXI PG
[illegible]

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE 18A
Crude sexual language, not recommended for children
Thu 7:00 9:15

CINEPLEX ODEON CINEMAS CINEMA GUIDE

CITY CENTRE

[illegible]

BLADE: TRINITY 18A
Fri 1:20 4:20 7:40 Sat 4:20 7:40 10:25
Sun-Thu 1:20 4:20 7:40 10:25

CLOSER 18A
Crude sexual language. Fri 1:00 3:30 7:50
Sat 3:30 7:50 10:20 Sun-Thu 1:00 3:30 7:50 10:20

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Coarse language. No passes. Fri 12:40 4:00 7:10
Sat 4:00 7:10 10:05 Sun-Thu 12:40 4:00 7:10 10:05

SIDEWAYS 18A
Sexual content. Fri 12:20 3:20 7:20
Sat 3:20 7:20 10:15
Sun-Thu 12:20 3:20 7:20 10:15

SPANGLISH PG
Coarse language, mature theme. Fri 12:50 3:50 6:50
Sat 3:50 6:50 9:45 Sun-Thu 12:50 3:50 6:50 9:45

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Crude content, sexual language. No passes
Fri 1:10 4:10 7:00 Sat 4:10 7:00 9:50
Sun-Thu 1:10 4:10 7:00 9:50

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 18A
War violence, sexual content. Fri 12:30 3:40 6:40
Sat 3:40 6:40 9:35 Sun-Thu 12:30 3:40 6:40 9:35

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG
May frighten young children. No passes
Fri 12:00 3:10 6:30
Sat 3:10 6:30 9:55 Sun-Thu 12:00 3:10 6:30 9:55

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Coarse language, violence. Fri 12:10 3:00 7:30
Sat 3:00 7:30 10:10 Sun-Thu 12:10 3:00 7:30 10:10

WEST MALL 8

[illegible] St, 444-[illegible]

WITHOUT A PADDLE 14A
Fri 2:00 4:00 Sat 4:00 6:30 9:00
Sun-Thu 2:00 4:00 6:30 9:00

SHARK TALE G
Fri 2:20 4:40 Sat 4:40 6:40 8:50
Sun-Thu 2:20 4:40 6:40 8:50

THE NOTEBOOK PG
Suggestive scenes. Fri 1:30 4:15 Sat 4:15 6:50 9:20
Sun-Thu 1:30 4:15 6:50 9:20

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE 18A
Crude sexual language, not recommended for children
Fri 4:10 Sat 9:40 Sun-Thu 4:10 9:40

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE G
Fri 2:10 4:25 Sat 4:25 7:05 9:10
Sun-Thu 2:10 4:25 7:05 9:10

RAY PG
Substance abuse, not recommended for young children
Fri 2:40 Sat 7:40 Sun-Thu 2:40 7:40

ALFIE 14A
Fri 1:40 Sat 7:20 Sun-Thu 1:40 7:20

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 14A
Coarse language. Fri 1:50 4:30
Sat 4:30 7:10 9:25 Sun-Thu 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:25

LADDER 49 PG
Coarse language. Fri 1:45 4:20
Sat 4:20 7:00 9:30 Sun-Thu 1:45 4:20 7:00 9:30

CLAREVIEW

4211-139 Ave, 472-7600

THE INCREDIBLES G
Fri 1:10 4:00 6:45

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri 12:30 3:20 6:40
Sat 3:50 6:50
Sun-Thu 12:50 3:50 6:50

NATIONAL TREASURE PG
Fri 12:50 3:50 6:50
Sat-Thu 9:20

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
Fri Sun-Thu 2:00 Sat 4:40

BLADE: TRINITY 18A
Fri 4:40 7:40 Sat 7:40 10:15
Sun-Thu 4:40 7:40 10:15

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
[illegible]
7:20 Sat 3:40 6:30 9:15 Sun-Thu 1:00 3:40 6:30 9:15

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
[illegible] No passes
Fri 1:40 4:50 7:35 Sat 4:50 7:35 10:10
Sun-Thu 1:40 4:50 7:35 10:10

SPANGLISH PG
[illegible]

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Coarse language, violence. Fri 1:50 4:30 7:30
Sat 4:20 7:30 10:05 Sun-Thu 1:50 4:20 7:30 10:05

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 12:40 3:30 7:10 Sat 3:30 7:10 9:40
Sun-Thu 12:40 3:30 7:10 9:40

DARKNESS 14A
Frightening scenes. Sat 4:00 6:45 9:00
Sun-Thu 1:10 4:00 6:45 9:00

THE AVIATOR PG
Mature content, not recommended for young children
No passes. Sat 5:10 8:30 Sun-Thu 1:30 5:10 8:30

FAT ALBERT G
Sat 5:00 7:20 9:30 Sun-Thu 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:30

SOUTH EDMONTON COMMON

[illegible]

THE INCREDIBLES G
Fri 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30
Sat-Thu 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri 12:20 1:15 2:40 3:45 5:10 7:40
Sat-Thu 12:20 2:40 5:10 7:40

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
Daily 1:50 4:20 7:20

NATIONAL TREASURE PG
Fri 1:00 3:50 7:10 Sat-Thu 1:00 3:50 7:10 10:10

CLOSER 18A
Crude sexual language
Fri 1:30 4:10 6:50 Sat-Thu 1:30 4:10 6:50 9:20 10:15

BLADE: TRINITY 18A
Fri 2:00 4:50 5:50 7:50 Sat-Thu 2:00 4:50 7:50 10:40

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Coarse language. No passes. Fri 12:30 2:15 3:20 5:15
6:30 Sat-Thu 12:30 3:20 6:30 9:30 10:20

SPANGLISH PG
Coarse language, mature theme. THX Fri 1:20 4:15 7:15
Sat-Thu 1:20 4:15 7:15 10:15

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Coarse language, violence. Fri 1:40 4:40 7:45
Sat-Thu 1:40 4:40 7:45 10:30

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Crude content, sexual language. No passes
THX Fri 12:10 1:10 2:45 4:00 5:20 7:00 8:00 Sat-Thu
12:10 1:10 2:45 4:00 5:20 7:00 8:00 9:45 10:45

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG
May frighten young children. No passes
Fri 12:15 2:10 3:30 5:30 6:45
Sat-Thu 12:15 2:10 3:30 5:30 6:45 8:45 9:50

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS 14A
Subtitled. Fri 12:50 3:40 6:30
Sat-Thu 12:50 3:40 6:30 9:15

FAT ALBERT G
Sat-Thu 12:00 2:20 4:30 6:40 9:00

DARKNESS 14A
Frightening scenes. Sat-Thu 12:40 3:00 5:40 8:15 10:45

GALAXY CINEMAS @ SHERWOOD PARK

2020 Sherwood Drive, 416-9160

THE INCREDIBLES G
Fri 1:30 4:30 7:25 Sat 4:30 Sun-Thu 1:30 4:30

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri 1:50 4:10 Sat 4:10 Sun-Thu 1:50

NATIONAL TREASURE PG
Fri 12:40 4:00 6:50 Sat-Thu 4:00 6:50

THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE G
Fri 2:00 4:10

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
Fri 7:20 Sat-Thu 7:20 9:40

BLADE: TRINITY 18A
Fri 1:00 4:20 7:00 Sat 10:10 Sun-Thu 1:00 10:10

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Coarse language. No passes. Fri 12:30 3:30 6:45 7:10
Sat 7:10 10:00 Sun-Thu 4:10 7:10 10:00

SPANGLISH PG
Coarse language, mature theme. Fri 12:50 3:40 6:40
Sat 3:40 6:40 9:30 Sun-Thu 12:50 3:40 6:40 9:30

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 1:20 3:50 6:30 Sat 3:50 6:30 9:00
Sun-Thu 1:20 3:50 6:30 9:00

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Coarse language, violence. Fri 1:40 4:40 7:30 Sat 4:40
7:30 10:15 Sun-Thu 1:40 4:40 7:30 10:15

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Crude content, sexual language. No passes. Fri 1:10 3:45
7:15 Sat 3:45 7:15 9:50 Sun-Thu 1:10 3:45 7:15 9:50

FAT ALBERT G
Sat 4:55 7:05 9:15 Sun-Thu 12:30 2:40 4:55 7:05 9:15

THE AVIATOR PG
Mature content, not recommended for young children
No passes. Sat 4:20 7:50 Sun Thu 12:40 4:20 7:50

DARKNESS 14A
Frightening scenes.
Sat 4:50 7:40 10:20 Sun-Thu 2:00 4:50 7:40 10:20

SOUTH EDMONTON CINEMAS

14231-137 Ave, 732-2230

THE INCREDIBLES G
Fri 12:50 4:15 7:10 Sat 4:15 Sun-Thu 12:50 4:15

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri Sun-Thu 1:10 3:40 6:30 Sat 3:40 6:30

FINDING NEVERLAND G
Fri 12:10 2:40 5:10 7:35
Sat 5:10 Sun Thu 12:10 2:40 5:10

NATIONAL TREASURE PG
Fri 1:20 4:20 7:15 Sat-Thu 7:15 10:05

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
Fri 1:50 4:40 7:05 Sat 4:40 Sun-Thu 1:50 4:40

CLOSER 18A
Crude sexual language
Fri 2:10 5:00 7:50 Sat-Thu 7:50 10:10

BLADE: TRINITY 18A
Fri 2:00 4:50 7:45
Sat 4:50 7:45 10:30 Sun-Thu 2:00 4:50 7:45 10:30

SPANGLISH PG
Coarse language, mature theme. Fri 12:15 3:10 6:45
Sat 3:10 6:45 9:40 Sun-Thu 12:15 3:10 6:45 9:40

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Coarse language. Fri 12:00 1:00 3:00 4:00 7:00 7:30
Sat 4:00 7:00 9:50 Sun-Thu 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Coarse language, violence. Fri 12:40 3:20 7:20
Sat 3:20 7:20 10:00 Sun-Thu 12:40 3:20 7:20 10:00

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 1:30 4:10 6:50
Sat 4:10 6:50 9:20 Sun-Thu 1:30 4:10 6:50 9:20

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Crude content, sexual language. No passes
Fri 12:30 1:40 3:30 4:30 6:40 7:40 Sat 3:30 4:30 6:40
7:40 9:30 10:20 Sun-Thu 12:30 1:40 3:30 4:30 6:40
7:40 9:30 10:20

DARKNESS 14A
Frightening scenes. Sat-Thu 7:55 10:15

THE AVIATOR PG
Mature content, not recommended for young children
No passes
Sat 3:50 7:35 9:00 Sun-Thu 12:20 3:50 7:35 9:00

FAT ALBERT G
Sat 5:00 7:30 9:45 Sun-Thu 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:45

THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU 14A
Coarse language throughout. Sat 4:20 7:10 9:55
Sun-Thu 1:20 4:20 7:10 9:55

FAMOUS PLAYERS GATEWAY 8

[illegible]

THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE G
Fri 12:30 1:10 2:30 3:30 4:40 6:45 7:25 Sat 4:40 6:45
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:30 2:30 4:40 6:45

ALEXANDER 14A
Gory scenes. Fri 12:35 4:00 7:30
Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 9:00

FINDING NEVERLAND G
Fri 1:00 4:10 7:10 Sat 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 1:20 4:10 7:10 9:50

THE GRUDGE 14A
Frightening scenes. Fri 1:20 4:20 7:15 Sat 4:05 6:30
Sun 1:30 Mon Tue Wed Thu 1:30 4:05 6:30

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 12:45 1:15 3:45 4:15 6:50 7:20 Sat 3:45 4:15 6:50
7:20 9:30 10:00 Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:45 1:1
3:45 4:15 6:50 7:20 9:30 10:00

THE AVIATOR PG
Mature content, not recommended for young children
Sat 4:00 4:30 7:45 8:45 Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:15
12:50 4:00 4:30 7:45 8:45

LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU 14A
Coarse language throughout. Sat 3:50 7:15 9
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 1:10 3:50 7:15 9

SILVERCITY WEST EDMONTON MALL

WEM, 8882-170 St, 444-2400

THE INCREDIBLES G
Fri 11:30 2:10 4:50 7:30
Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:40 6:45

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri 12:00 2:20 4:45 7:15
Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:00 2:20 4:45 7:15 9:40

NATIONAL TREASURE PG
Fri 11:30 3:45 7:25 Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 3:45 9:25

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
Fri 11:35 2:05 4:35 7:10
Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 11:35 2:05 4:35

BLADE: TRINITY 18A
Fri 12:30 3:30 6:55 Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 6:55 9:4

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Coarse language
Fri 12:00 3:00 6:30
Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:00 3:00 6:30 9:30

SPANGLISH PG
Coarse language, mature theme
Fri 12:05 2:50 6:50
Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:05 2:50 6:50 9:55

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG
No passes. May frighten young children. Fri 11:55 3:05
6:40 Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 11:55 3:05 6:40 10:05

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 11:40 1:00 2:15 4:00 4:55 7:00 7:40 Sat Sun Mon
Tue Thu 11:40 1:00 2:15 4:00 4:55 7:00 7:40 9:50
10:25 Wed 11:40 1:00 2:15 4:00 4:55 7:40 9:50 10:25

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Coarse language, violence. Fri 12:15 3:15 7:15
Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:15 3:15 7:15 10:00

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Crude content, sexual language. Fri 1:15 4:15 7:35 Sat
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 1:15 4:15 7:35 10:[illegible]

THE AVIATOR PG
Mature content, not recommended for young children
Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:45 4:25 8:00

LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU 14A
Coarse language throughout. Sat 11:35 2:10 4:50 7:30
10:10 Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 11:30 2:10 4:50 7:30 10:10

WESTMOUNT CENTRE

111 Ave Groat Rd, 455-0725

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Coarse language. Fri 12:30 3:30 6:45 Sat 3:30 6:45
9:30 Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:30 3:30 6:45 9:30

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 1:00 4:00 7:00 Sat 4:00 7:00 9:40
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:40

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Crude content, sexual language. No pa[illegible]
Fri 12:45 3:45 7:20 Sat 3:45 7:20 10:00
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 12:45 3:45 7:20 10:00

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Coarse language, violence
Fri 1:15 4:15 7:10
Sat 4:15 7:10 9:50
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu 1:15 4:15 7:10 9:50

MOVIES 12 / CINEMA CITY 12

MOVIES 12
11010 AVE & 50TH STREET 472-9779
CINEMA CITY 12
16330 99 STREET 483-5481
SHOWING AT BOTH CINEMAS

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 14A
Coarse language. Daily 11:15 1:30 4:05 7:10 Sat-Thu
9:35 Sat late show 11:55

LADDER 49 PG
Coarse language. Daily 11:10 1:35 4:10 7:05 Sat-Thu
9:50 Sat late show 12:10

SHALL WE DANCE PG
Daily 11:25 1:50 4:15 7:15 Sat-Thu 9:45
Sat late show 12:00

RAY PG
Substance abuse, not recommended for young children
Daily 12:00 3:15 6:30 Sat-Thu 9:40

THE FORGOTTEN PG
Frightening scenes. Daily 11:20 1:45 4:50 7:40
Sat-Thu 10:10 Sat late show 12:20

CELLULAR 14A
Cinema City: Daily 11:30 1:55 4:30 7:30 Sat-Thu 9:55
Fri Sat late show 12:25
Movies 12: Daily 7:30 Sat Thu 9:55
Sat late show 12:25

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE G
Daily 11:50 2:20 4:55 7:20
Sat-Thu 9:[illegible]
Sat late show 11:3[illegible]

SAW R
Disturbing content
Daily 4:35
Sat Thu 10:0[illegible]
[illegible]

SHARK TALE G
Daily 11:55 2:05 4:25 7:10
Sat Thu [illegible]
Sat late [illegible]

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE 18A
Crude sexual language, not recommended for children
Daily 11:35 2:00 7:45

THE NOTEBOOK PG
Suggestive scenes
Daily 11:05 1:40 4:20 7:00
Sat-Thu 9:40 Sat late show 12:10

SURVIVING CHRISTMAS PG
Not recommended for young children
Cinema City: Daily 11:45 2:10 4:40 7:25
Sat-Thu 9:30 Sat late show 11:40
Movies 12: Daily 11:45 2:10 4:40

TAXI PG
Violence. Daily 11:40 2:20 4:45 7:35
Sat Thu 10:00
Sat late show [illegible]

WITHOUT A PADDLE 14A
Movies 12: Daily 11:15 1:55 4:30 7:15
Sat Thu 9:50 Sat late show 11:55

Spanguish

Director Brooks half-heartedly tries to deal with issues of culture and society in lame *Spanglish*

BY COLLEEN ADDISON



REVUE: HEARTWARMING

Welcome to white America: It's an amazing place, where a family with a stay-at-home mom and a father who cooks for a living, can have millions; where they can live in a huge house with a pool and rent a beachside mansion for the summer. But where, alas, even their success cannot mask the yawning emptiness beneath. Ah, the problems of the rich.

In today's U.S., nothing seems to sell better than family values. In ***Spanglish***, we have a put-upon hero, John Clasky (Adam Sandler), who believes desperately in the wonder of kids, only to have his family fall apart due to his neurotic wife, Deborah (Tea Leoni), who's a horrible mother, and who has the unenviable role of being a woman accused (in a horrible voiceover track, no less) of jogging too much. Exercise takes away women's roundness and maternal feeling, says the movie (no doubt the writer, James L. Brooks, thought this was a blow against the women-must-be-thin Hollywood rule). Indeed, here is a woman whose thin body proclaims her a fitness freak, and thus whose idea of motherhood is buying too small clothes for her chubby daughter (a lovely performance by Sarah Steele). It's not a great idea to begin with, but Leoni doesn't make it better. Her performance, complete with an unbelievably awful sex scene (it's worth noting that Brooks recently got divorced), is so over the top you start cringing every time she appears onscreen.

Into this world walks Flor (Paz Vega, a star in her native Spain), a native Mexican woman who speaks no English. She's the real match for John, a caring parent with a curvy

SEE NEXT PAGE



heresy!

Every week in Heresy!, Vue Weekly *invites its film writers to either champion a film that everyone regards as trash, or to trash a film that everyone regards as art. This week:* ***Colleen Addison*** *pans* ***Some Like It Hot***.



Legends abound about the filming of the 1959 Marilyn Monroe vehicle *Some Like It Hot*: according to some, it marked the start of Monroe's descent into the depression that would take her life only a few years later, and her tardiness and inability to remember even the simplest of lines caused her co-star, Tony Curtis, to remark famously that "kissing Monroe was like kissing Hitler." But out of this mess, director Billy Wilder managed to craft a masterpiece so wonderful it's lasted over 40 years, it still gets a laugh, known all over the world, and even shown every year in the Czech Republic. It's one of the best films ever, we've heard; more than just a silly comedy, it challenges gender assumptions, too.

Uh? *Some Like It Hot* is funny, sure, but I don't think it's the work of art many people credit it as being. For one thing, it doesn't exactly change how we think of men and women. Instead, I think it verges on misogynist.

Two men (Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon) dress up as women to escape pursuit by a group of Chicago gangsters. In doing so, they move from Chicago, a rough-and-tumble man's world, to Miami, full of love and good cheer, with lots of women and few men. (Happily, the film saves us from the current cross-dressing requisites: there's no leg-waxing or eyebrow-plucking for comic effect as there was in the horrible *What Women Want*.)

What the film does have, however, is a whole lot of dumb women. From Sweet Sue (Joan Shawlee), the leader of the women's band the men join, to the love interest, Sugar Kane (Marilyn Monroe), the men fool everybody. Though their huge shoulders and falsetto voices make their disguise transparent to the audience, their skirts and lipstick fool everyone else. The men are even better women than the real women; upon meeting "Daphne" and "Josephine," the other girls are at first in awe and the band's manager, Beinstock (Dave Barry—not the columnist), begins to worry. "They're a couple of real ladies," he says, and plans to advise the other women to improve their behaviour.

Duping Sugar doesn't exactly take a heraculean effort. Sugar is a ditz, all beauty and no brains. To me, here Monroe's personal problems seem to be coming to the fore. Though this is reported to be her best performance ever, she strikes me as rather blank. Marilyn Monroe's sparkle consists of suggesting that there's more to her than just the dumb blonde image; she's really much smarter than she pretends. In *Some Like It Hot*, Monroe is only a caricature of herself, all vacant smiles and giggles. Her dumb Sleeping Beauty act comes complete with a kiss of enlightenment; despite various hints, Sugar never guesses that Josephine is Joe, until the moment when he kisses her.

Some Like It Hot is funny, sure, but it doesn't deserve to be touted as anything but an empty comedy. ●

ARTS WEEKLY

Fax your free listings to 426-2889 or e mail them to Glenys at listings@vueweekly.com. Deadline is Friday at 3pm

DANCE

CAPOEIRA The Capoeira Academy, [illegible] Ave (709-3500) • Every Sat (3-4pm) • Free performance of a Brazilian fusion of martial arts, dance, and music, invented by African slaves

GALLERIES/MUSEUMS

ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL GALLERY 10186-106 [illegible] (488-6611 488-5900) • Open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm (closed all Thurs) • Open until Dec. 24: Mon-Fri 9:30am-6pm, Thu 9:30am-8pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12-5pm, Fri, Dec. 24 10am-3pm; closed Dec. 25-Jan. 2 • *A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION OF CRAFT:* until Dec. 24

CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA 9103-95 Ave (461-3427) • Closed Dec. 25-Jan. 4 • [illegible] show featuring artworks by Francophone [illegible] artists • Jan 5-Feb 16

CHACHKAS 8118-100 St (432-9444) • Paintings by Paul Roche • Until Dec. 31

COLLECTIV CONTEMPORARY ART AND DESIGN SHOP 6507-112 Ave (491-0002) • Open: Wed-Fri 12-8, Sat 10-6, Sun 12-4 • Artworks by Brad Burns, Robert Buttery, Janice Hoekstra, and more • Through December

EDMONTON ART GALLERY 2 Sir Winston Churchill Sq (422-6223) • Open Tue-Wed and Fri 10.30am-5pm; Thu 10:30am-8pm; Sat, Sun 11am-5pm. Closed Mon • *FROM NEAR AND FAR:* Artworks that explore Canada as a multicultural society; until May 23 • *BETWEEN BORDERS:* Until June 19 • *IMAGES OF EDMONTON:* Until Feb. 20 • *DRAW. Drawing by Edmonton artists;* until Feb. 6 • *COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS:* Until May 15 • *PROTEAN PICASSO:* Drawings and prints from the National Gallery of Canada; until Jan. 16 • **Kitchen Gallery:** *IMAGINING HOME:* Marc Siegner; until Feb. 6 • **Children's Gallery:** *SPELLBOUND:* until Jan. 2005 • $8 (adult)/$6 (student/senior)/$4 (child 6-12)/free (member/child 5 and under)

ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO 12419 Stony Plain Rd (482-1402) • Open Tue by appt. only, Wed-Fri 10am-5:30pm, Sat 10am-4pm, closed long weekends • *2004 RETROSPECTIVE YEAR END SHOW.* Featurnng artworks by various artists • Until Dec. 24

FORT DOOR 10308-81 Ave (432-7535) • Open: Mon-Wed, Sat 10am-6pm, Thu-Fri 10am-9pm, Sun 12-5pm • Eskimo soapstone carvings of otters by D. Inukpuk. Indian and Eskimo silver and gold jewellery by J. Sawyer. Porcupine quill baskets by Ojibwa artists • Through December

FRINGE GALLERY Bsmt 10516 Whyte Ave (432-0240) • Open Mon-Sat 9:30am-6pm • Staff show; until Dec. 31 • Artworks by Madelaine; through January

HARCOURT HOUSE 10215-112 St (426-4180) • Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 12-4pm • *SITTINGS* Video installation piece by Johnnie Eisen; Jan. 6-Feb 5; opening reception: Jan. 6 (7-10pm) • **Front Room:** *SEASONINGS:* Drawings by Gerald St. Maur; Jan. 6-Feb. 5; opening reception: Jan. 6 (7-10pm)

JASPER MUSEUM 400 Pyramid Lake Rd, Jasper (780-852-3013) • Open Thu-Sun 10am-5pm • *PHOTOSYNTHESIS:* Featuring photographs of the northern Rockies by five photographers, Jasper Artists Guild showcase • Jan 7-23 • Opening gala: Jan. 7 (7-10pm)

JEFF ALLEN ART GALLERY Strathcona Place Senior Centre, 10831 University Ave (433-5807) • Open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm • *CHRISTMAS SHOW.* Group show featuring artworks by various artists; until Jan. 27

JOHNSON GALLERY 7711-85 St (465-6171) • Open Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm, Sat 9am-5pm • *CHRISTMAS ART FAIR:* Prints, pottery, bronze sculptures, painting on agate, and tree hangings • Until Dec. 31

JOHNSON GALLERY 11817-80 St (479-8424) • Open Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm; Sat 9:30am-4pm • *EDMONTON CENTENNIAL POSTERS 1904-2004* Posters by Con Boland. Artworks by Wendy Risdale, Al Roberge, Don Sharpe, Dave Ripley, Jim Brager, Jack Ellis, pottery by Blackmore Studios and Noburo Kubo • Until Dec. 31

LANDO GALLERY 11130-105 Ave (990-1161) • *FESTIVE SEASON:* Artworks by gallery artists • Until Jan. 8

McMULLEN GALLERY U of A Hospital, 8440-112 St (407-7152) • Open Mon-Fri 10am-8pm; Sat-Sun 1-8pm • *TRANSFORMATIONS: WAVES OF FIRE, CLOUDS OF SNOW:* Audio and visual art by Agnieszka Matejko, Adrienne Arlene Duffy, and Ryan Dorward

MCPAG MULTICULTURAL PUBLIC ART GALLERY 5411-51 St, Stony Plain (963-2777) • Open Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-6:30pm • *THE FESTIVE FOREST:* Winter installation of paintings by Jordanka Yaretz; until Jan. 3 • *TROPICAL GIANTS.* Large botanical watercolour paintings by Eileen Raucher-Sutton; Jan. 5-Feb. 1; opening reception: Sun, Jan. 23 (1-3:30pm)

MUTTART CONSERVATORY 9526-96A St (496-2925) • *CHRISTMAS 1904:* Victorian Christmas with seasonal plants; until Jan. 5

PICTURE THIS GALLERY 959 Ordze Rd, Gateway to Sherwood Park, Wye Rd (467-3038) • Featurnng metal sculpture by Rogelio Menz, florals by Pam Vilcsak, landscapes by Roger Arndt, seascapes by Jonn Einerssen and Brent Heighton, soapstone carvings by Vance Theoret • Through December

PLANET ZE DESIGN CENTER 10055-80 Ave (428-3499) • Open Tue-Fri 12-5pm, Sat 2-6pm • Featurnng functional sculptures by Sandra Sing, paintings by various artists • New Year's Eve opening featuring DJ and performers: Dec. 31 (9pm-2am); $40/$75 (couple)

PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY 19 Perron Street, St. Albert (460-4310) • Open Tue-Sat 10-5pm; Thu 10am-8pm • *PRESENCE:* Artworks by St. Albert Place Visual Arts Council (SAPVAC); until Dec. 31

PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA 12845-102 Ave (453-9100) • Open Mon-Sun 9am-5pm • *A CENTURY PAST. REFINED LIVING IN THE NEW ALBERTA* Until Sept. 30, 2005 • *SYNCRUDE CANADA ABORIGINAL PEOPLES GALLERY.* Spans 11,000 years and 500 generations, people of the past and present, recordings, film, lights, artifacts and more. Permanent exhibit • *FACES OF SALT:* Until May 14, 2005 • *WILD LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY:* Colour photographs of Alberta landscapes by Dale Hudjik; until Jan. 9 • *EDMONTON GRADS:* Until May 1 • *TEDDIES AND TOYS:* until Feb. 27 • **The Natural History Gallery:** • *BUG ROOM:* Live invertebrate display Permanent exhibit • *THE BIRD GALLERY:* Mounted birds. Permanent exhibit • *TREASURES OF THE EARTH* Geology collection. Permanent exhibit • *WILD ALBERTA GALLERY:* Permanent exhibit • *Wild Alberta* every weekend. Presentations start at 1pm and 2pm • Admission is half price Sat and Sun (9-11am) • **Terrace:** *BIG THINGS 3:* Large-scale sculpture; until Sept. 13, 2005 • *NORTH EDMONTON SCULPTURE WORKSHOP:* Ryan McCourt, Mark Bellows, Andrew French, Peter Hide, Ken Macklin and Royden Mills increase awareness and appreciation of local contemporary sculpture; until Mar. 29

ROWLES AND COMPANY GALLERY 10130-103 St (426-4035) • Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 12-5pm • Watercolours by Frances Alty-Arscott, Jeanne Findlay, Sigrid Behrens, paintings by Audrey Pfannmuller, George Schwindt, Bruce Thompson, Steve Mitts, Elaine Tweedy, Angela Grootelaar, sculptural metal tables/stands by Rogelio Menz, blown glass by Darren Petersen, Cheryl Takacs, Susan Gottselig and Mark Gibeau • **Hotel Macdonald:** Acrylics by Steve Mitts • **Westin Hotel** (Pradera Room): Historical silkscreens by George Weber

SCOTT GALLERY 10411-124 St (488-3619) • Open Tue-Sat 10am-5pm • *CHRISTMAS TREASURES:* New artworks by gallery artists Sean Caulfield, Douglas Haynes, Brenda Malkinson, Robert Sinclair, and Arlene Wasylynchuk and others • Until Dec. 24

SNAP GALLERY 10309-97 St (423-1492) • Open Tue-Sat (12-5pm) • *THE SHAPE OF SPACE/PRINT LAB* Printworks by Barbara Robertson, and Julie Voyce, until Dec. 23 • Printworks by Cindy Baker, Janice Wong, Matt Pulford, and Christopher Shepherd; Jan 6-Feb. 12; opening reception: Thu, Jan. 6 (7-9pm)

UPSTAIRS GALLERY Great Bear Framing, 2nd Fl, 11631-105 Ave (452-8906) • *GREAT BEAR CHRISTMAS SALON - ART IN YOUR STOCKING:* Through December

VAAA GALLERY 3rd Fl, Harcourt House, 10215-112 St (421-1731) • *EAST MEETS WEST:* Collages by Kathleen Newman and paintings by Sharon Simonds-Chia • Jan. 6-Feb. 5 • Opening reception: Thu, Jan. 6 (7-9:30pm)

VANDERLEELIE GALLERY 10183-112 St (452-0286) • Open: Tue-Sat 10am-5:30pm • *CHRISTMAS GROUP SHOW.* Featuring a selection of artworks by gallery artists • Until Dec. 30

WINDJAMMER JAVA ROASTERS 122, 150 Chippewa Rd, Sherwood Park (417-5282) • Open Mon-Wed 10am-5pm, Thu 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-4pm • *SPLIT SECOND:* Designs by Chloe Findlay • Through December

LITERARY

MELTING POT ASIAN RESTAURANT 10351 Whyte Ave (433-2932) • Storytellers of Canada first Tue each month (7-9pm)

NAKED CYBER CAFÉ 10354 Jasper Ave • Music, poetry, and performance art open stage hosted by the Naked Eclectic Electric Orchestra • Every Thu (8pm)

PARAMOUNT THEATRE 10233 Jasper Ave (423-3487) • Doug Coupland reading from his new novel *Eleanor Rigby* • Mon, Jan. 10 (7:30pm) • $5

LIVE COMEDY

THE COMEDY FACTORY 3414 Gateway Boulevard (469-4999) • Rob Pue; Dec. 30-31, Jan. 1

THE COMIC STRIP 1646 Bourbon St, WEM, 8882 170 St (483-5999) • Alternative comedy featuring hypnotists, magic, music; every Tue (8pm); $10 • Improv Night: Featuring Wes Borg; every Wed (8pm); $10 • Comedy for a cause; every Thu (8pm); $12 • Headliner series; every Fri/Sat/Sun (Fri-Sun 8pm, Sat 10:30pm); $21 • Silly Sundays: Every Sunday (noon-1:45pm), interactive family comedy show; $5 (child 12 and under)/$7 (adult)/$20 (family: 2 adults, 3 children) • Family entertainment brunch featuring magicians, jugglers, clowns; every Sun (day) • Industry night: Every Sun • Rob Pue and guests; Thu, Dec. 23 and Sun, Dec. 26 • Get Hypnotized! With Hypnotist Sheldon Fingler; Tue Dec. 28 • Improv Extravaganza with The Second City Improv Players; Wed, Dec. 29 • Rick Bronson and guests; Dec. 30-Jan. 2 • New Year's Eve Extravaganza featuring Rick Bronson, Big Daddy Tazz, Three Dead Trolls in a Baggie; 7pm and 10pm; Fri, Dec. 31 • Get Hypnotized with Sheldon Fingler; Tue, Jan. 4 (8pm) • Improvisation Extravaganza with The Second City Improv Players; Wed, Jan. 5 (8pm) • Leland Klassen and guests; Jan. 6-9 (8pm, 8pm an 10:30pm weekends)

YUK YUK'S Londonderry Mall (481-9857) • Paul Sveen; Dec. 23 • Kerry Unger; Dec. 28 • Toby Hargrave; Dec. 29-30 • New Year's Eve featuring Rich Hall, Mike Wilmot, Derek Edwards; show and dinner

THEATRE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Citadel Theatre, Maclab Theatre 9828-101A Ave (425-1820) • Actor/playwright Tom Wood returns as Ebenezer Scrooge for the fifth consecutive year in the Citadel's spectacular stage version of Charles Dicken's classic seasonal tale of spintual redemption • Until Dec. 24 • Tickets available at Citadel box office

DRAGNET SQUAD Jubilations Dinner Theatre, WEM (484-2424) • Until Jan. 23

THE KING AND I Festival Place, Sherwood Park (449-3378 451-8000) • Richard Winnick directs Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic 1951 musical, set in mid-19th-century Thailand, about an Englishwoman whose strong-willed personality frequently clashes with the equally hard-headed King of Siam, who has hired her to give his children a modern, Western-style education • Dec. 23, 26-28 • $20 (adult)/$15 (child) • Tickets available at Festival Place box office, TicketMaster

ONLY IN CANADA, EH? • Mayfield Dinner Theatre Mayfield Inn, 16615-109 Ave (483-4051) • Alfie Zappacosta stars in this high-energy tribute to Canadian singers, songwriters and comedians • Until Feb. 13 (Tue-Sun) • $47-$94

ROBIN HOOD: MEN WITH SWORDS Celebrations Dinner Theatre, Oasis Entertainment Hotel, 13103 Fort Rd (448-9339) • A comic spoof of the legend of Robin Hood, Maid Manan and the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest • Until Feb. 5 (Tue-Sat 6:15pm, Sun 5:15pm)

Spanglish

Continued from previous page

figure (Never mind that Paz Vega is stunning beyond belief and Adam Sandler is aging and a bit chunky). Flor learns English pretty much so she and John can chat without the distraction of Flor's bilingual daughter Cristina (Shelbie Bruce) as interpreter. And yeah, John and Flor kind of flirt. In fact, their "chemistry" drags through scene after scene of prolonged eye contact and tender wow-you-are-wonderful moments. But, in the end, when they decide not to get together, it's frustrating; the entire point of the movie seems to hang on something that doesn't quite happen.

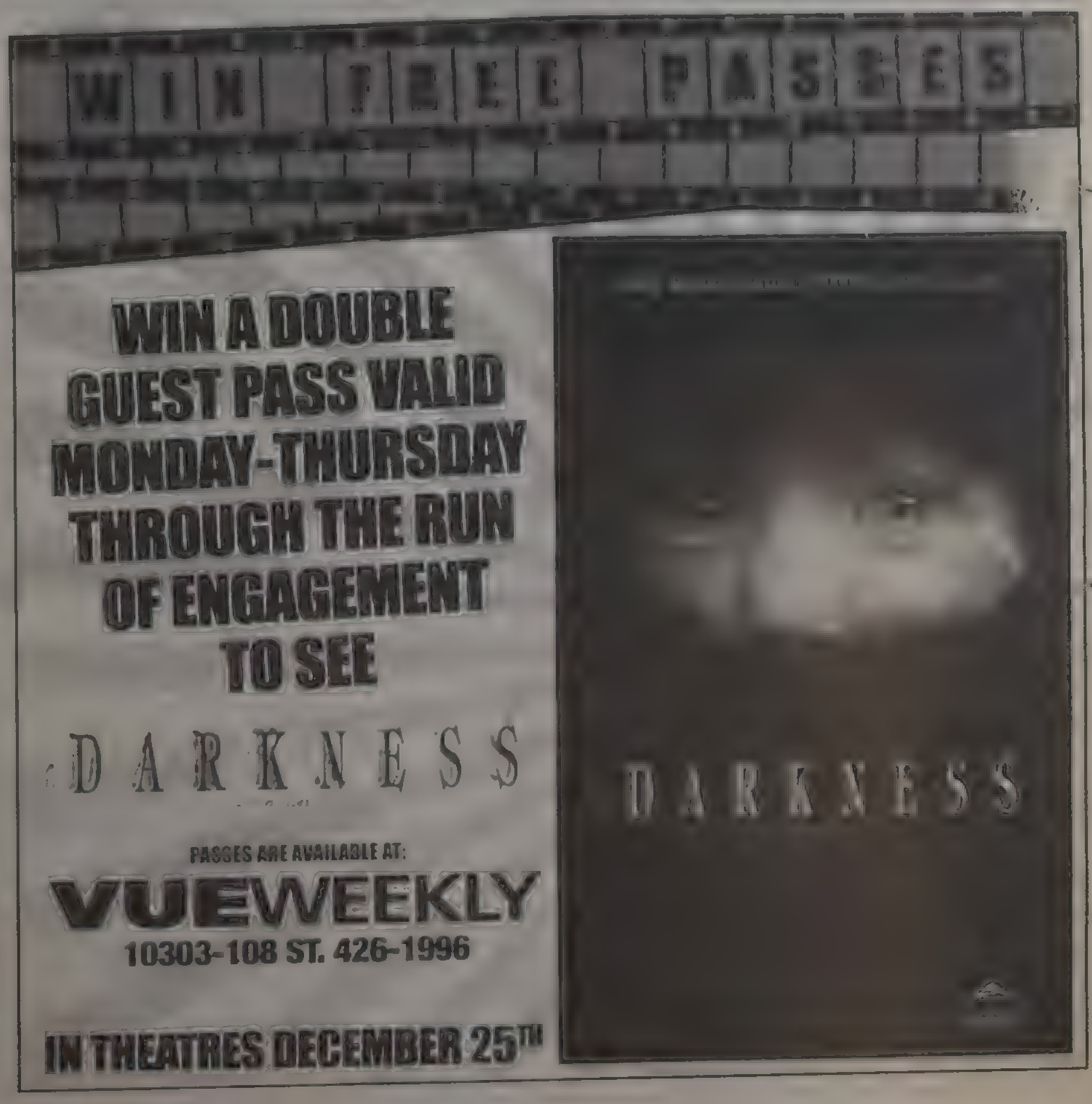
THE FILM'S REAL CRIME, though, lies in trying to show the problems of the melting pot, or, in the current jargon, the salad bowl. Flor doesn't want to be assimilated; she wants to keep her own culture. This is an interesting issue, but the film never bothers to explore anything about it. When Deborah offers Flor's daughter Cristina a scholarship to private school, John and Flor discuss the pros and cons. "Do you want them to be odd," asks John, "or just like everyone else?" But in the rest of the film, there's not even a choice. Flor can be both, easily, as can Cristina.

For this is the American dream in all its glory, where the Claskys are successful because they're white, but where there are no real problems for Mexican Flor, either. Racial issues are never discussed; no prejudice is ever shown beyond Deborah's struggles with Flor's name ("What I walk on, right?" Deborah asks, confused, at the two's first meeting). Flor's job is easy, her tasks consisting of nothing more tiring than gathering up newspapers or carrying boxes, and she gets to hook up with the boss without anyone ever suggesting they're not equals. Flor has made it without even half trying, and second-generation Cristina will succeed even more: she's applying to Princeton.

Part of the problem is that Flor's culture, which she's supposedly trying so hard to preserve, is never shown. It's as if being Mexican hinges solely on her ability to speak Spanish. Interestingly, Flor remains unsubtitled throughout, thus providing only good part of the movie—a chance for everyone to practice their Spanish. V

SPANGLISH
Written and directed by James L. Brooks • Starring Adam Sandler, Tea Leoni, Paz Vega • Now playing







free will astrology

By ROB BREZSNY

ARIES

Your assignment in 2005 is to wage a revolution in the sphere where you have the most power. Your home? Your marriage? Your workplace? Local government? Wherever it is, Aries, arm yourself with tact and compassion as you overthrow the stale status quo by manifesting your shining ideal. Let this advice from Buckminster Fuller serve as your touchstone: "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

TAURUS

Apr 20 - May 20

I'll send many suggestions your way in the coming months, Taurus. Some of them will ring true to you, and others may not. Some will be evocative clues you'll meditate on for days, while others may fade from your awareness right after you read them. Through it all, there will be two constants. First, every horoscope will be offered to you in a spirit of love. Second, you will always be free to take it or leave it. And now I present what I consider the most important advice for you to keep in mind throughout 2005, though only you can decide if it actually is: consistently cut away the smaller, weaker buds in order to direct all the forces of growth into the few buds most likely to succeed.

GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Am I afraid of sounding too extravagantly optimistic as I deliver my predictions for your year ahead? Well, yes, a little. But I think you can handle it. Besides, there is a caveat: since even the arrival of good news can be stressful, you may have to struggle at times to deal with all the positive changes that are on the way. Here's an example: I believe 2005 will be your Year of Mind-Wobbling, Heart-Opening Adventures in Love. To receive the fullness of the demanding gifts you'll be offered, you'll probably have to make big adjustments in your habitual behaviour.

CANCER

June 21 - July 22

Here's an odd paradox about your fate in 2005: you will get as close to your true home as you have ever been, and yet you'll also be teased and intrigued by a provocative mystery. Let me say it another way: more than at any other time in your life, you will feel like you truly belong here—and yet you'll often be amazed at how enigmatic everything is. I'll give you one more angle on the confounding security that will visit you in the coming months: you'll have an uncanny sense of being cared for by a mother goddess, even as you keep delving further than ever before into the riddles of your unpredictable destiny.

LEO

July 23 - Aug 22

Last month, a religious fanatic in Taiwan decided to reach out to a previously neglected group of heathens. At a zoo, he leapt into a lion's den and began trying to convert the beasts to the Christian faith. "Jesus will save you!" was one of his oft-repeated exhortations. The lions seemed enraged by his appeals, and it was only through the heroic efforts of the zookeepers that the crusader was saved from martyrdom. Let him serve as your anti-role model in 2005, Leo. Work diligently to spread your good intentions, be brave in promoting your high ideals, ramp up your powers of persuasion to a new level, but don't waste your time trying to win over dumb beasts, bad listeners and narrow-minded dogmatists.

VIRGO

Aug 23 - Sept 22

Marilynne Robinson published her first novel, *Housekeeping*, in 1982. It was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and an influential critic called it one of the 10 best novels of the 20th century. This November, 22 years later, Robinson came out with her second work of fiction, *Gilead*. "Writing is like praying," she told Carin Besser in the *New Yorker Online*. "In both, if they are to be authentic, grace and truth must discipline thought." I nominate Robinson to be your patron saint in 2005, Virgo. May she inspire you to produce another gem like the one you did some years ago. May her example give you the faith to work as slowly as you need to in order to remain impeccable, allowing grace and truth to discipline your thought.

LIBRA

Sept 23 - Oct 22

A four-year-old artist from Binghampton, New York has sold 25 of her paintings, earning $40,000. Marla Olmstead's works have been compared to those of Wassily Kandinsky and Jackson Pollock, and many have appeared in galleries. One critic wrote, "Painting with fingers, spatulas and brushes, and using plastic mustard bottles to squirt out acrylics, she creates textured, abstract landscapes laden with emotion, depth and real talent." I'm naming Marla as your official role model for 2005, Libra. I expect the youngest part of you to blossom, unleashing frequent bursts of creativity.

SCORPIO

Oct 23 - Nov 21

A few years ago, East Timor was described as an "unimaginable, apocalyptic ruin" by UN peacekeepers. More than 200,000 people had died during a 25-year struggle to separate from Indonesia. But after finally gaining its independence, the new nation is now prospering in peace. With this as your inspiration, Scorpio, identify the most intractable and painful problem in your life. Now imagine that in the next 10 months, you will transform it as dramatically as the people of East Timor did theirs.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22 - Dec 21

One of your main assignments in 2005 is to cultivate your sense of wonder. It's true that you already possess a more acutely developed sensitivity to marvels and miracles than most of the other astrological signs, but you still have a way to go to reach your highest potential. With this in mind, I'll ask you to make 52 appointments with yourself in the coming year. They could be at noon every Monday, or whatever time you choose. During each meeting, you will renew your commitment to seeing with fresh eyes. You'll vow to be alert for previously unnoticed delights lurking in the midst of your familiar surroundings. You'll promise yourself to seek out experiences that teach you things you don't know.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22 - Jan 19

In her book *Soul Sounds*, Mary Summer Rain recounts a conversation between a man and God. "How long is a million years to you?" the man asked. "A second," God replied. Then the man asked, "How much money is a million dollars to you?" "A penny," God said. "Can I borrow a penny?" the man asked. "Sure," God said, "in a second." Here's my interpretation of this anecdote: God was struck by the man's greed and decided to have a joke at his expense. Now if you, on the other hand, Capricorn, are less grandiose in your financial requests for 2005, I believe God will be pretty responsive.

AQUARIUS

Jan 20 - Feb 18

The planetary omens for 2005 are unambiguous: you've got to spend more time in nature. For the sake of your physical and mental health, you must escape the familiar confines of your comfy cages-must wander out into wild places that are far from plastic, concrete, bricks, and glass. Your Official Maxim of the Year comes from essayist Edward Dahlberg: "Man is at the nadir of his strength when the earth, the seas, the mountains are not in him, for without them his soul is unsourced, and he has no images by which to abide." In the coming months, Aquarius, find a way to get the earth, the seas and the mountains inside you.

PISCES

Feb 19 - Mar 20

The coming year will be prime time for you to reinvent your conception of and relationship with God. The best way to begin this fun project is to throw away everything you think you know about the subject and start from scratch. Why not imagine a Divine Creator who is wild and free, who inhabits both the dark and the light, who exudes mystery as well as goodness, who heals with strange beauty as much as with sweet insight, and who gives you puzzles that bring you to the brink of crazed excitement, at which point you break through into a higher way of knowing-an almost sensual contact with a marvelous, difficult, entertaining God? ✪

EVENTS WEEKLY

Fax your free listings to 426-2889 or e-mail them to Glenys at listings@vueweekly.com Deadline is Friday at 3pm

CLUBS/LECTURES

BOREAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM 7, 6328A-104 St; every Thu (6:30-8:30) • Organic Roots, 8225-122 St, every third Thu (6:30pm)

KIDS! LEARN KARATE! IT'S A KICK! Grandin Elementary School - 9884-110 St (975-6910/460-2931) • Karate for Kids over 10, teens and adults • Every Tue/Fri (6:30-8pm) • Starting Jan. 4

LET'S TALK ANIMALS Valley Zoo, 134 St, Buena Vista Rd, 87 Ave • *Primarily Primates*, lecture and demonstration • Dec. 26

MEDITATION • **Garneau United Place,** 11148-84 Ave (412-1006) Drop-in meditation with with Gen Kelsang Phuntsog; every Thu (7-9pm); $10 (donation) • **Diamond Way Buddhist Centre,** 4th Fl, 10314 Whyte Ave (455-5488) free meditations every Wed (8pm) • **Buddhist Meditation,** 10762 Whyte Ave (433-8463) Tibetan tradition meditation presented by the Karma [illegible] Ling Society every Wed (7pm); beginners welcome • **City Arts Centre,** 10943-84 Ave • The Way of Life meditation; last Tue each month (not Dec. 21), (7pm door)

NASCENT Support group for late teens to early thirties those who feel lost, alone and confused or those who have wisdom to share • e-mail i_didnt_know@hotmail.com for info

PILGRIMAGE TO SCOTLAND Hostel International 10647-81 Ave (454-6216) • Featuring presentation on the Great Glen Way, Skye, Pluscarden, St. Cuthbert's Way Holy Isle of Lindisfarne, Isle of Cumbrae presented by Rev Geoff Wilfong-Pritchard • Mon, Jan. 10

TECHNOLOGY OF INNER PEACE 210, 10534 124 St (482-0016) • Discussion of the Yoga Sutras presented by the East West Yoga Society • Jan. 6-7 (6-9pm), Jan. 8-9 (10-4pm)

TOASTMASTERS • 4005-115 Ave (469-6183) • N'orators Toastmasters, learn public speaking; every Thu (7:30-9:30pm) • **Baker Centre,** 10th Fl [illegible] (477-2613) Upward Bound Toastmaster[illegible] (7pm) • **Norwood Legion,** 11150-82 St (45[illegible] Norwood Toastmasters Club Weekly meeting about public speaking, and how to improve your communication and leadership skills

QUEER LISTINGS

AGAPE Faculty of Education, U of A Campus • Sex, sexual, gender differences in education and culture focus group • Contact Dr. Andre Grace (andre.grace@ualberta.ca) for info

AXIOS (454-8449) • A support group, local chapter of the international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians

BOOTS AND SADDLES 10242-106 St (423-5014) • Large tavern with pool tables, restaurant, shows. Members only

BUDDYS NITE CLUB 11725 Jasper Ave (488-6636) • Open daily 9-3, Fri 8pm • Mon: Amateur strip (12:30); DJ Alvaro, Ashley Love • Tue: DJ Arrowchaser, malebox night, free pool • Wed: DJ Eddy Toonflash; Drag shows (12:30) • Thu: Wet underwear contest 12:30 w/Connie Lingua and DJ Squiggles • Fri: Dance party with DJ Alvaro • Sat: DJ Arrowchaser, Pool Tournament • Sexy Sundays with Sean and DJ Mikee, all request dance party

DIGNITY EDMONTON (482-6845) • Support community for lesbigay Catholics and friends

DOWN UNDER 12224 Jasper Ave (482-7960) • Steambath

EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (422-6207) • An organization for gay men and lesbians in business and their non-gay friends to share business knowledge, learn, make friends and network in a positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm

FREE-TO-BE-VOLLEYBALL Oliver School Gym, SE Entrance, 10227-118 St (444-5673) • Mixed recreational volleyball league catering to the GLBT • Wed (7:30-9:30pm) (Sept.-May) • $3 (drop-in)/$20 (term) $40 (year)

GAY MEN'S OUTREACH CREW (GMOC) 45, 9912 106 St (488-0564) • Peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward preventing the spread of HIV by improving self-esteem

HIV NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY 105, 10550-102 St (488-5742) • Programs and support services for people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS and related illnesses. Counselling, referrals, support groups, harm reduction, education, advocacy and public awareness campaigns

ICARE 702A, 10242-105 St (448-1768) • www.icarealberta.org • The Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV Resources and Education (formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS) provides spiritual support and connections for those affected by HIV/AIDS

ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB GLCCE, Suite 45, 9912-106 St • Meetings every second Thursday each month

INSIDE/OUT U of A Campus • Campus-based organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) faculty, graduate student, academic, straight allies and support staff • Third Thu each month (fall/winter terms): Speakers Series. Contact Kris (kwells@ualberta.ca) or Marjorie (mwonham@ualberta.ca) for schedule

LAMBDA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Garneau United Church, 11148-84 Ave (474-0753) • Every Sun (7pm): Worship services. Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community

LIVING POSITIVE www.connect.ab.ca/livepos (488-5768) • Edmonton Persons Living with HIV Society. Peer-facilitated support groups, peer counselling • Daily drop-in

LUTHERANS CONCERNED www.lcna.org (426-0905) • A spiritual community which gathers monthly for sharing, friendship, individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions

MADELEINE SANAM FOUNDATION Faculté St. Jean, 8406 Marie-Anne Gaboury (91 St) Rm 3-18 (490-7332) • Program for HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment and harm reduction in French, English and other African languages • Every 3rd and 4th Sat (9am-5pm) • Free (member)/$10 (membership) • Pre-register

MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm • Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching, beginners encouraged to participate. Socializing after practices • Every Tue and Thu

MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE (488-3234) • Every Sun (7pm): A safe, supportive, confidential discussion group talking about all gay related issues, for men at any stage of coming out • Free • talkingwithpride@hotmail.com

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON (429-2321) • Weekly non-denominational church services

PFLAG GLCCE, Suite 45, 9912-106 St (462-5958) • Meetings every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm • Support/education for parents, families and friends of lesbians/gays/bisexuals transgenders

POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEE (421-2277/1-877-882-2011, ext. 2038) • Edmonton Police Service and the gay and lesbian community

PRIDE CENTRE 45, 9912-106 St (488-3234) • (GLBTQ) Drop-in solution focused counselling provided by a chartered psychologist and two registered social workers; free • Check website for scheduled counselling times www.pridecentreofedmonton.org • GET OUT: The women's coming out group; starts Tue, Jan. 11 (7:30-9:30pm)

PRIME TIMERS (426-7019) • Meetings every second Sunday of the month at 3pm. A social group for gay/bisexual men over 40 and their friends

PRISM BAR AND GRILL 10524-101 St, back entrance (990-0038) • Lesbian and gay bar/restaurant

THE ROOST 10345-104 St (426-3150) • Open Sun-Thu 8pm-3am, Fri-Sat 8pm-4am • Wed: Amateur strip with Weena Luv, Sticky Vicky, DJ Alvaro • Thu: Rotating shows: Sticky's open stage and the Weakest Link game second and last Thursday with DJ Jazzy • Fri: **Upstairs:** Euro Blitz: New European music with DJ Outtawak **Downstairs:** DJ Jazzy • Sat: Every Sat like new years: **Upstairs:** Monthly theme parties with DJ Jazzy **Downstairs.** New music with DJ Dan and Mike • Sun: Betty Ford Hangover Clinic Show: Every long weekend with DJ Jazzy • Tue-Thu $1 (member)/$4 (non-member); Fri-Sat $4 (member)/$6 (non-member); Sun $2

STEAMWORKS 11745 Jasper Ave (451-5554) • Steambaths

TRANSSEXUAL/TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP egret@hotmail.com • Meetings every fourth Tuesday of the month • Information and mutual support for transgendered people in an open, friendly and safe environment. Open to transsexuals, transvestites, cross-dressers, drag queens/kings

WOODYS 11723 Jasper Ave (488-6557) • Open Daily (noon) • Sat-Wed: Karaoke with Annie and Ken (7-12pm)

YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH 45, 9912-106 St • www.members.shaw.ca/yuy • Every Sat (7-9pm) • An adult facilitated social/support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, straight and youth under the age of 25

SPECIAL EVENTS

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS WITH THE McDADES John Walter Museum, Kinsmen Sports Centre (496-2925) • Concert, hot apple cider and candlelight • Dec. 23, 26-28 (7:30pm) • $19 (adult)/$10 (14 and under)

CELEBRATE THE SEASON Legislature (427-7362) • Daily performances by schools, choirs, and groups • Until Dec. 23

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS Fort Edmonton Park, Fox Dr, Whitemud Dr (496-2925) • Carols, crafts, Victorian shop, a theatre performance of *The Gift of the Magi* and much more • Dec. 23 (6-10pm) • $15 (13+)/$10 (child up to 12 yrs)

HOURGLASS BALL (492-2116) • Performances, dinner and ballroom dancing with music by DJ Jim Kent • Fri, Dec. 31 (5:30pm-2am) • $60 (UADC member)/$80 (non-UADC member)

JACK FROST MUNCH AND CRUNCH POPCORN John Janzen Nature Centre, Fox Dr, Whitemud Dr • Short nature films and outdoor excursion and craft • Dec. 29-31 (1-4pm) • $1.25 (2-12 yrs)/$1.50 (13-17 yrs/senior)/$1.75 (adult)/$4.75 (family)

KARAOKE

AVENUE PIZZA 8519-112 St (432-0536) • Every Thu (9:30pm)

B-STREET 11818-111 Ave (414-0545) • Every Wed-Sun (9pm): with Brad Scott

BILLY BOB'S Continental Inn, 16625 Stony Plain Rd (484-7751) • Every Thu (9pm): Music Trivia with Escapade Entertainment • Every Fri/Sat (9:30pm): with Escapade Entertainment

BILLY BUDD'S 9839-63 Ave (438-1148) • Karaoke Idol contest • Every Sat (8.30pm)

BLUE QUILL 326 Saddleback Rd (434-3124) • Every Fri/Sat (10pm)

BORDERLINE PUB 3226-82 St (462-1888) • Every Thu-Sat (9.30pm)

BOSTON PIZZA (WHYTE AVE) 10854-82 Ave (433-3151) • Karaoke Thursdays with host Khadija J

CAMELOT SPORTS BAR 10231-95 St (425-4298) • Every Sun (8pm): Hosted by Jeannie

CLAREVIEW PUB Victoria Trail, 132 Ave (414-1111) • Every Tue (9:30pm-2am)

CLIFF CLAVVIN'S 9710-105 St (424-1614) • Every Fri/Sat (10pm)

DOYLE'S PUB 2619-151 Ave (473-1961) • Every Fri/Sat (9.30pm): with Dee Dee

DRUID 11606 Jasper Ave (454-9928) • Every Wed

FRANCO'S 14059 Victoria Trail (467-4636) • Every Thu-Sat (9pm): with Woody

GAS PUMP 10166-114 St (488-4841) • Every Tue/Wed

HILLVIEW PUB 311 Woodvale Rd. W, Millwoods (462-0468) • Every Fri/Sat (9:30-1am)

INGLEWOOD PUB 12402-118 Ave (451-1390) • Every Fri-Sat (9:30pm)

JIMMY RAY'S 15211-111 Ave (486-3390) • Every Sat (9pm)

KELLY'S 11540 Jasper Ave (451-8825) • Every Sun/Wed (9pm)

L.B.'S 23 Akins Dr, St. Albert (460-9100) • Every Tue/Thu (9pm)

LEGENDS 6104-162 St (481-2786) • Every Wed (9pm)

MARK'S BACK PUB 13403 Fort Rd (406-5152) • Every Fri/Sat (9pm): with Shawn the Bomb

MICHAEL'S 11730 Jasper Ave (482-4767) • Every Mon: with Jammin' Jamie

NIKKI DIAMONDS 8130 Gateway Blvd, Bsmt (439-8006) • Every Thu-Sun (9pm-2am): Karaoke with Howard from Audio Stars

ORLANDO'S I 15163-121 St (457-1195) • Every Sun (9pm)/Wed (10pm)

ORLANDO'S II 13509-127 St (451-7799) • Every Wed/Thu (9pm)

OVERLAND RESTAURANT 12960 St. Albert Tr (454-0667) • Every Fri/Sat (9pm): with Big Time Entertainment

RATTLESNAKE SALOON (438-8878) • Every Mon, Tue, Wed with Mr. Entertainment

RICHARD'S PUB 12150-161 Ave (457-3117) • Every Thu (9pm-1am): Karaoke hosted by Jimmy Love

ROSARIO'S PUB 11715-108 Ave (447-4727) • Daily (9pm)

ROSEBOWL PIZZA 10111-117 st (482-5152) • Every Wed/Sat (9pm)

ROSIE'S BAR AND GRILL DOWNTOWN 10604-101 St (423-3499) • Every Tue-Sat (9pm-1am): with Ruth

ROSIE'S BAR AND GRILL HIGHSTREET 10315-124 St (482-1600) • Daily (9:30pm)

ROSIE'S BAR AND GRILL OLD STRATHCONA 10475-80 Ave (439-7211) • Thu, Fri, Sat (9:30pm-1:30am)

SHERLOCK HOLMES 10341-82 Ave (433-9676) • Every Sun (9pm): with Scott

STRATHEARN PUB 9514-87 st (465-5478) • Every Wed/Fri (9pm)

TODAY'S 5224-86 St (465-6223) • Every Fri/Sat (9pm-1am) every Tue (8pm-midnight)

WINSTONS PUB 9016-132 Ave (457-4883) • Every Wed, Fri, Sat (9:30-m-1am): with DJ Centaur SID

WOODY'S 11725 Jasper Ave, upstairs (488-6636) • Every Sun/Tue (7pm-midnight): with Terrance; every Mon/Wed (7pm-midnight): with Annie

CLASSIFIEDS

If you want to place your Classified ad in Vue Weekly please phone Carol at 426-1996. Deadline is noon the Tuesday before publication.

antiques and collectibles

REPRODUCTION OF ANTIQUES & REPAIR & REFINISHING
Come See Our Selection
963-3919

business opportunity

HEALTHY COFFEE & TEA EXCITING NEW PRODUCT
[illegible] entrepreneurs needed to help build a [illegible] enterprise. Launching in Canada. Top earning potential. 436-8498.

Moms! No More Daycare!
[illegible] home and make above average income.
www.freemoms.com/sally

MANGOSTEEN JUICE: Powerful antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antibacterial for prevention of disease. #1 natural supplement for arthritis, depression, fatique, eczema, fibromyalgia, high cholesterol, heart disease, asthma, diabetes, cancer, irritable bowel and more. For free CD, call Roberta (780)962-3058 or www.myxango.com/Canada Distributors needed ASAP, will train.

christmas ideas

Fleece lined moccasins and mukluks. Handcrafted locally. Order early. 435-1769.

clothing

MENS long mink coat
For sale
462-6605.

classes

Learn to paint the figure. For drop-in classes and workshops call Tessa Nunn at 461-1028. Visit www.tessanunn.com for a full winter schedule.

education

Turn your dreams into a career!
Register for the 6 Month Dramatic Arts Program!
Vancouver Academy of Dramatic Arts
1-866-231-8232
www.vadastudios.com

Thinking of a career in MASSAGE THERAPY?

Check out the distance-learning alternative.
mhvicarsschool.com
or call us at 491-0574
6924 Roper Road Edmonton

furniture for sale

Bed, Queen extra thick orthopedic pillowtop boxspring & matt. New cost $950, sacrifice $250. King avail. at $450. Can deliver 453-3077.

100% leather sofa, loveseat, and chair never used. Cost $4,200. $1,795. Free delivery. Can deliver 453-3755.

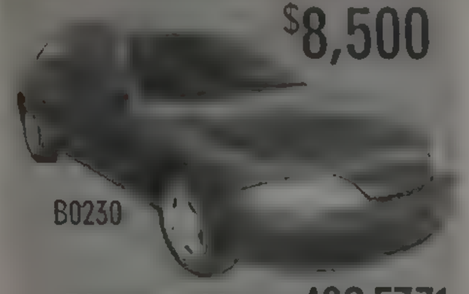
To place your ad in Vue Weekly Classifieds Phone Carol at 426-1996 for more information

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK

cars for sale

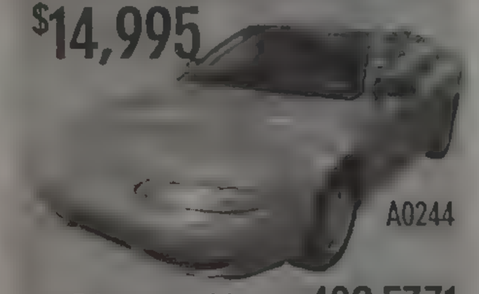
85 Dodge Caravan lo kms, EXC cond. Brakes, frt tires, ignition module, p/s & alt belts all new last year. Very well maint'd. Must see. $900 obo. Ph [illegible]88-6746.

2002 Chev. Cavalier
Auto, ABS, Traction Cass, Great Fuel Economy
$8,500



Call Edmonton Motors 482-5771

2003 Olds. Alero
1.4L V6, 180HP, Loaded!, 23,980Km
$14,995



Call Edmonton Motors 482-5771

health

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE
Incl. Somatics, Emotions, Shiatsu, Yoga therapy.
Appts call 965-4278.

WELLNESS INDUSTRY: Individuals to introduce Xanthone rich anti-oxide, anti-inflammatory product. Phone 455-8956.

helicopter flight training

Available in Whitecourt, Alberta at Rotorworks Inc. Oil/Gas Plant operating and farm background an asset for employment in the pilot and operator field. 1-780-778-6600.
info@Rotorworks.com

help wanted

SNEAK PREVIEW, Edmonton's premier movie store is looking for a flexible daytime clerk. Apply in person with resume to 4047-106 St. Outgoing personality and extensive movie knowledge a necessity.

PAID WEEKLY! Company needs p/t/t help processing unclaimed bank accounts. Call 1-866-883-0780 24 hrs.

Drivers wanted: $15+/hr, Wed (night) and Thu (day), perm/PT. Must have mini-van or truck. Looking for reliable, responsible person. Ph 907-0570.

EXCITING CAREERS:
Computer Programming/Internet **WEBSITE** Designer, Home Study Diploma. Computers provided. For free enrollment kit (24hrs) **1-800-477-9578 CMS TRAINING**

AVON Reps Needed,
Home Business Career, Low Start-Up Fee, Trainin Provided, It's A Great Time To Join, It's Fun, It's Simple. Call Today 471-9181 Corinne.

help wanted

CHANGE YOUR LIFE! TRAVEL TEACH ENGLISH
We train you to teach. 1000's of jobs around the world. Next in-class or ONLINE by correspondence. Jobs guaranteed
10762-82 Ave
Call for Free info pack 1-888-270-2941

INCOME OPPORTUNITY

- 3 Shifts Available
- Guaranteed Wage +
- Training Provided

702-5519

models

International Model and Talent agency requires extras, actors and models of all ages. Please call 432-4601.

shared accommodation

U of A student to share quiet main flr, laundry, partly furnished. M/F, N/S, N/P, $380/mon. Utilities included. Ph 438-8014

RIVERBEND, Unfurnished bedroom. Direct bus to U of A. No-smoking. References. $350/Mo, $200/DD. Includes utilities. 438-3982

music instruction

MODAL MUSIC INC.
466-3116
Music Instruction for guitar, bass, drums, and percussion.
Private instruction: focus on individual!
Professional, caring instructors with music degrees,
quality music instruction since 1981.

workshops

Conquer your fear of public speaking. Join City Lights Toastmasters! Meetings downtown every Tuesday at noon. Call Perry at 426-5882 for details

Voice cartoons, write and voice commercials and more. Daily workshops available–auditions to follow www.sharkbytes-studios.com/workshops.htm Call 944-1686

artist to artist

FREE•FREE•FREE•FREE•FREE
ARTIST/NON PROFIT CLASSIFIEDS
Need a volunteer? Forming an acting troupe? Want someone to jam with? Place up to 20 words FREE, providing the ad is non-profit. Ads of more than 20 words will be subject to regular price or cruel editing. Free ads run for four weeks depending on available space. For more info please phone Glenys at 426-1996/fax 426-2889/e-m glenys@vueweekly.com or drop it off at 10303-108 St. Deadline is noon the Tuesday before publication

Photographer w/studio seeks local arists/band/musicians for portfolio dev. Free for the rest of 2004 966-FILM www.davenoel.com

Dancers/Gymnasts meet 1/wk to work with choreographer on new movement involving Dance/Rhythmic Gymnastics. e-m: contactme123@care2.com

Sculptors' Association of Alberta: Looking for new members, to network with sculptors, and to learn to sculpt ice. www.saa.ca, ph Laurie 232-1886

Screenwriters wanted. Seeking committed, enthusiastic screenwriters for Edmonton screenwriting group. E-m rditzian@yahoo.ca

SCREENWRITERS circle. First Tues of ea. Month @ 7:30pm. Call 429-1671 or visit FAVA.ca

WANTED: Comedy Writer/Director
Born to write direct Comedy? Sketch Comedy writer/producer seeks collaborative partner for major television project. Exp. req. Bill: 437-5893

ArtsHab Studio Gallery is now featuring guest artists for monthly exhibits. Incl: • Proposal (incl physical desc./special req) • 10 slides/photos • CV • artist statement. Info Ph Tim 423-2966

Tired of the same ole Xmas crap? Come out for SANTACON - the Rampage of the Cheap Suit Santas! Info - edmonton@burningman.com

3rd Busker's Ball **seeks buskers, street performers, street artists** to host a benefit concert for the Parkland Institute. Bill 433-5159

musicians

Community Big Band seeking jazz/swing/piano and trombone player. Call Rod @ 459-7099

Needed guitarist for country/rock/blues. Full time touring. Call Rob @ 720-7032

Local rock/punk band seeks clean guitarist and drummer. Free rehearsal space w/drums. Contact E-town Rocker: originaljungleboyz@hotmail.com

Seeking singing bass player for regular intown work. Contact 974-0317

Original project **seeking bass player.** Rock and roll. Possible touring. Strong committment required. No students please. Call 893-234

Female fronted 3pc **requires drummer** with big ears, open mind, and soul. Infl. by everything 444-4670 or e-m: rovor3@hotmail.com

TEXAS BLOOD MONEY is **auditioning for a lead vocalist,** interested? Call 920-0438 or 989-2440

volunteers

The 3rd Busker's Ball seeks fun loving volunteer to host a benefit concert for the Parkland Institute. Bill 433-5159

OUTGOING and enjoy working with people? Like learning about science and educating others? Dynamic hosting and educational volunteer positions available @ Odyssium ™ Contact Violet 452-9100

Love to Cook? Cooking Tutors needed to teach basic cooking skills to adults with developmental disabilities in classroom-based setting. Staff support on site. Ph Lily 471-1122 ext 361

Operation Red Nose is looking for volunteers to help with its annual free designated driver program to keep impaired drivers off the road. Call 702-8000.

Edmonton Christmas Bureau in Kingsway Garden Mall, Southgate Centre, Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre, Edmonton City Centre need donations www.christmasbureau.edmonton.ab.ca

Literacy tutors needed to assist adults with developmental disabilities to acquire basic reading and writing skills. Tutor training, support, and materials provided. Ph Lily 471-1122 ext 361

Seniors need your help, the **Adult Day Support Programs** provide seniors with special needds with a recreational/educational day program. For info call Donna 434-4747.

If you are healthy, right-handed and 18-55 years old, call 492-6033 to be in a research study Expenses paid

If you OR your brother/sister has schizophrenia call 492-6033 to be in a research study. Expenses paid

Do you like to drive your own car in Edm? We pay the gas! To be appreciated, call Seniors Vol. Driving for more information at 732-1221

The Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton is in need of volunteers to take calls on our 24-hour Crisis Line. The hours are self-determined and you can work from your own home. Next training begins Jan. 18. Ph Heather 423-4102.

YEAR ROUND ON-LINE AUCTION for Alberta Easter Seals. http://auction.edmonton24hourrelay.com. Donate items, bid, have a great time Carmen 429-0137 x233

SEE THEATRE FOR FREE! **Workshop West Theatre** has a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the season. 477-5955

If you have always wanted to be a broadcaster, here is your chance! VoicePrint Canada is looking for volunteers for Local Broadcast Centres. Donate your time to read local newspapers to the blind, low-vision, seniors. Voiceprint Canada broadcasts nationally on CBC Newsworld's S.A.P., and worldwide at www.voiceprintcanada.com. Audition: call 451-8331, e-m: edmonton@voiceprintcanada.com

Supportive adult role models needed to share time and interests with children and youth aged 7-17 with emotional/behavioral concerns. Orientation and supervision provided. Flexible evening or weekend placements. Ph Lily 471-1122 ext 361.

Call for Child Volunteers (10 to 12 yrs) needed to assess environmental effects from within the study area of Leduc or Parkland Counties. If you and your child are interested in volunteering Ph (780) 962-7570

Brain Neurobiology Research Program at U of A seeks individuals suffering from **PANIC ATTACKS** for research study. Ph 407-3221 Reimbursement provided.

The Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation: Looking for volunteers to assist in positions at Edmonton Roadrunner games; Ph Doreen Lesperance (780) 414-4631, e-m dlesperance@edmontonoilers.com

FREE JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE
Unemployed and Have a Disability?
If you are over 18
WE CAN HELP YOU FIND A JOB!
Solutions for work and Career Trends
428-7989
Chrysalis

Teach English Overseas!
TESOL Certified 5 days In-class Or Online Or By Correspondence.
* All ages * No Experience * No Degree
FREE Info Pack:
1-888-270-2941
FREE Info Seminar:
Monday & Tuesday, 7pm
10762-82 Ave.
Next Class: December 27-30
Travel the World. Earn Great Money.
globaltesol.com

CLASSIFIEDS THREE LINES FOR $10

INDEX
•Automotive •Employment
•Education •Announcements
•Real Estate •Market Place
•Professional Services
•Cheap Stuff •Music •Services
•Personals •Phone Services

•Phone 426-1996 from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday
Email: office@vue.ab.ca
Office:10303-108 St. Edmonton
•Deadline: Tuesday at Noon
•Print your copy legibly on lines provided at right.
•Up to 45 characters per line.
•Every letter, space or mark counts as 1 character.
•Allow one space following punctuation.

SECTION (FROM INDEX):
HEADLINE (MAX 20 CHARS):

EXTRAS
❑ Headline.....$3
❑ Bold/Centred....$3
❑ Extra Line....$2.50
❑ Box Word Ad.....$3
❑ Symbols.....$3ea

FORM OF PAYMENT
❑ CASH ❑ CHEQUE ❑ VISA ❑ MASTERCARD
Card#: Exp. Date:
Name:
Address:
Ph. Postal Code:

TOTAL
Line Total: $
+ Extras: $
SUBTOTAL: $
x Weeks: $
+ 7% GST $
TOTAL: $



alt sex column

BY ANDREA NEMERSON

I *said*, external use only!

Dear Andrea:
This guy I was messing around with put IcyHot on my vagina and the next morning it was swollen. Is there anything can do about this without going to the doctor?
Love, Owie-Wowee

Dear Owie:
Aha! I checked! This isn't déjà-vu; I really *have* answered your question before, more or less. Since I'm kind of on vacation anyway, I'm just going to rerun the old one. However, the otherwise not-so-sharp "Analweds," below, had been prudent enough to ask me before applying IcyHot to their mucus membranes. Since you failed to consult the oracle before embarking upon your adventure (silly girl!), I suggest wiping off as much goop as you can (using something like baby oil), applying cool compresses, and staying the hell away from Mr. Good Ideas there. Whatta maroon.
Love, Andrea

Dear Andrea:
My wife and I love anal, but we want to know if IcyHot is safe as a lube. We've used it externally, but we're not sure if it's safe internally.
Love, Analweds

Dear 'Weds:
The IcyHot you slather on after one of those overambitious workouts you hope will snap you back into shape after months of vegging on the couch? Do I think it wise to stick a gob of menthol, camphor, and eucalyptus up your asses? Uh, no.

Dude, I seriously hope you waited for my reply before trying this at home. It's true that some people do use those sports creams (externally!) for the pleasure/pain they can produce. I did once hear about a couple who were doing just that when some goop managed to insinuate itself into her urethra. No, there was no permanent damage, but she spent the next six hours in the bath, going "Ow ow ow" instead of in bed with him going "Ooh" and "Ah," and she was so mad she would have clocked him if he'd come within swinging distance of the tub. If you've ever rubbed your eye after handling that stuff, you should already know that menthol *et al* and mucus membranes do not mix, but I guess you've been lucky so far. Stay that way.
Love, Andrea

The worst omelette ever

Dear Andrea:
Egg white makes a good, available and cheap vaginal lubricant. Add a little CloseUp toothpaste for a little zip.
Love, Handy Hints

Dear Hints:
I didn't put out a general call for unusual substances to put up your pussy, did I? You'd think I'd remember doing something like that.

There's actually more literature on this subject than you might think (see "Putting Egg Whites Where The Sun Don't Shine" in *Salon*, for instance) and if you'll bear with me (this gets kind of gamey) I'll get to the point.

Women who are trying to get pregnant often track their cervical fluid. If sperms are going to get anywhere, they have to have something to swim in, and the wetter the better. The most fertile stuff is called "egg white," for its strong resemblance to same, and sometimes there just isn't enough to get the job done. So? Actual, chicken egg whites to the rescue. Keep in mind that the same people who fear the raw eggs in Caesar salad are going to be squeamish about applying them anywhere else. There's also a nasty shock in store for those who forget to let them warm up a bit after taking them out of the fridge. Yowch.

The toothpaste strikes me as unwholesome but harmless in small amounts. Now what in the world inspired you to roll your own lube, when there's so much commercial stuff available? I'm imagining you and your partner on a ranch in Montana, hours from the nearest store, but I've always had an active imagination.
Love, Andrea

Hey, that's pretty gross!

Dear Andrea:
My roommate received a piece of digital video which apparently showed a man putting his entire bald head into a woman's vagina. He thinks it must be faked, and this act is physically impossible. As a woman, I say you can never underestimate the capacity of a pussy and if you can get a baby out, you can get a head in—not that I'd want to! Who's right? We have money riding on this.
Love, Betty

Dear Bet:
Everyone says "Hey, they can get a baby through there, so why not this (ridiculously huge thing)?" Well, yes, but they've failed to factor in all the ligament-loosening, pubic-symphysis-spreading body changes women actually go through pre-parturition. They forget that birth can be so painful it requires a spinal block, and is occasionally fatal. All that aside, sure.

I have seen an (obviously faked) picture of this, and if you really look you can see that the man's head is wider than her *pelvis*, and could not possibly fit in there without breaking bone. Pussies are stretchy, but not *infinitely* stretchy, and huge as they are, baby-heads are nothing compared with big, bald, porn-guy heads. Oh, and there's the breathing issue. He can't.
Love, Andrea

Edmonton Roadrunner games: Ph Doreen Lesperance (780) 414-4631, e-m: dlesperance@edmontonoilers.com.

HEALTHY VOLUNTEERS required for research studies with the Brain Neurobiology Research Program at U of A. Ph 407-3775/407-3221. Reimbursement provided.

Brain Neurobiology Research Program at U of A seeks individuals suffering from **SOCIAL PHOBIA** for research study. Ph 407-3906. Reimbursement provided.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Edmonton with Edmonton Young Offenders Centre: looking for responsible adult role models/mentors. Must be over 18, w/valid drivers license and commit to 1 hr/wk. Ph Siobhain 422-6038 ext. 208, e-m: ssupernault@bgce.ca

Brain Neurobiology Research Program at U of A seeks individuals suffering from **SEVERE PMS** for research study (Ph 407-3775).

Volunteers needed for research at the U of A. Were you suicidal between the ages of 15 and 24, and are under 26? Willing to help us understand the experience of being suicidal and recovering? Participation is strictly confidential. Ph 492-6118 or email teen.research@ualberta.ca

Be a Distress Line &/or Youthone.com Crisis Chat volunteer. We offer: • Intensive training • Rewarding experience • Career-related skill development. Training classes in January. www.thesupportnetwork.com for info or call **The Support Network** at 732-6648.

The Learning Centre Literacy Association is looking for people to help adults develop their literacy skills. Contact Phyllis at 429-0675.

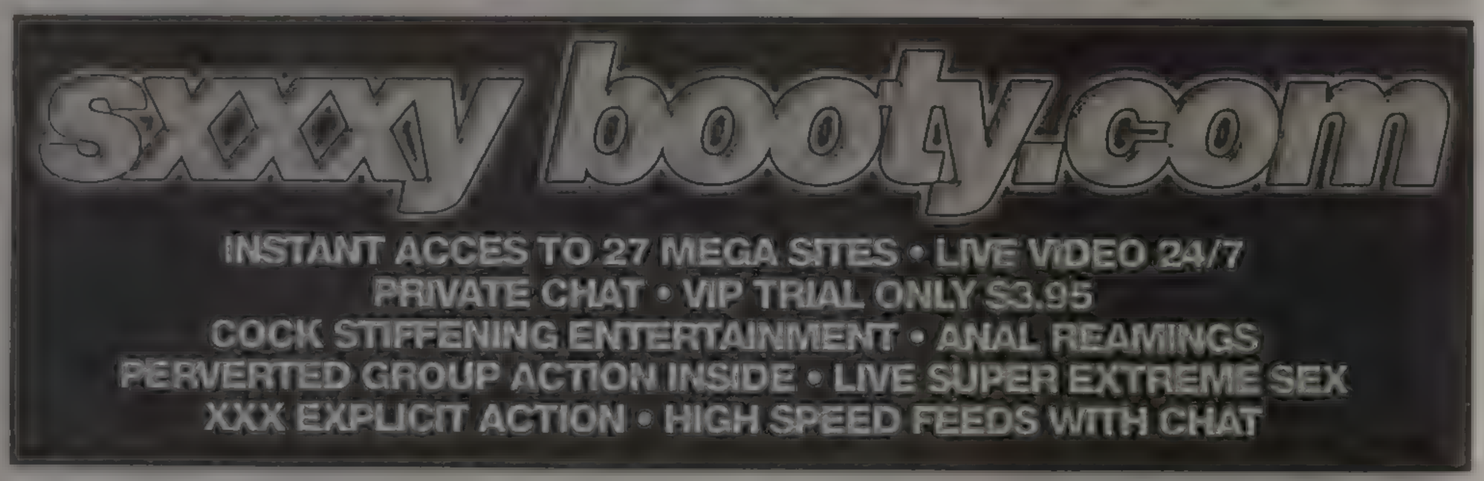
Help an adult improve their reading and writing skills. **Frontier College–Student for Literacy** looking for volunteers to be trained as **literacy tutors.** www.frontiercollege.ca Training provided Info Ph 492-4066, e-m: frontier@ualberta.ca

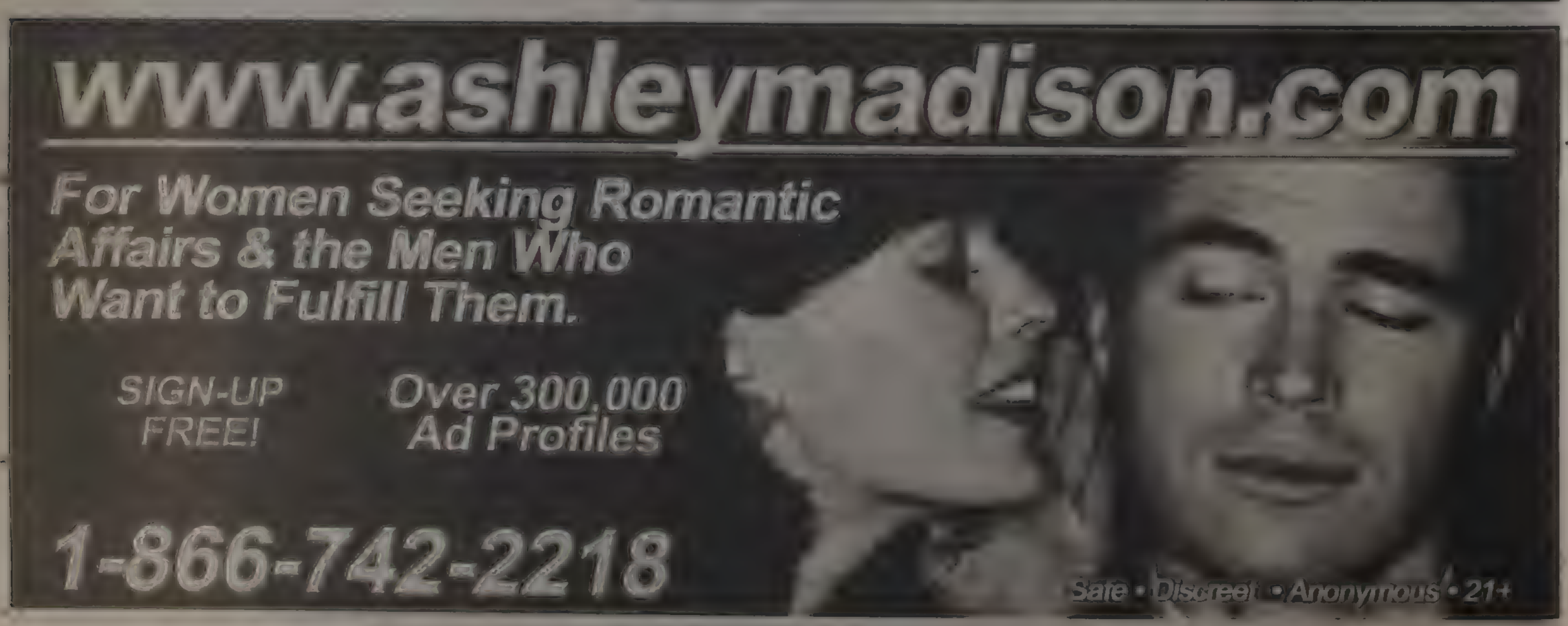
FunTeam Alberta, a non-profit sport organization is currently seeking Volunteers for the RecTeam Program. www.funteamalberta.com Ph Riana 490-0242, e-m info@funteamalberta.com

Help immigrants improve their English! Volunteer conversation tutors, grammar and writing instructors needed. Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. Ph Suzanne 423-9677









adults

GAY MALE SEX!
meet local gay men. Try us for free!
413 7144 Enter code 2310

CHAT! Always FREE for women!
1-888-482-8282 code: 660 18+.
No liability

FEMALES NEEDED!!!
$700 US per month with a spy cam
Bedroom Voyeur website is currently
looking for young attractive girls.
Call Jamie for more info.
1-800-474-8401

Ladies FREE!
Meet Someone New Right Now!
TALK LIVE FREE!
CALL FREE 24 HRS EVERYDAY
FIND FRIENDSHIP & ROMANCE
Personal Connections™
44-TALKS 448-2557
Must be 18+. Long distance charges may apply.

Pride Video
• Gay Erotica
• Cards
• Toys
Sun - Tues
12 Noon to 10 PM
Wed - Sat
12 Noon to Midnite
10121-124 St
Ph. 452-7743

Edmonton's Best Live Chat!
780-665-6565
Women always call FREE
Men use free code 1751
Other cities:
1-877-834-4044
www.One2One.ca

mobile hookup
On your cell phone text the word VUE to 12100.
Exchange messages instantly with other hot singles on-line RIGHT NOW!
Also TALK live!
It's anonymous and fun!
(25¢/msg. to send, FREE to receive)

HOT MALE CHAT • UNCENSORED EROTIC STORIES • TALKING CLASSIFIEDS
All Man, All Live.
CruiseLine
780.413.7122
Use FREE trial code: 2315
$24.95/75 minutes: 1.900.451.2853

QUEST PERSONALS™
CALL • CLICK • CONNECT™
www.questpersonals.com
50% off for NEW members
FREE FOR WOMEN!
UNINHIBITED CHAT! UNCOVER IT!
Chat FREE! 8pm-9pm daily
780-669-2323
other cities: 1-888-482-8282
enter code: 501
1-900-677-4444 75 min $25/call
FM assumes no liability. 18+. Restrictions may apply.

FREE Premium Cosmetics!
Now, meet new friends on the phone and enjoy FREE premium rewards.
(Please call for details)

GrapeVine PERSONALS
For years, the men on GrapeVine Personals have redeemed their GrapeVine points for free system time. Now, women can also redeem their GrapeVine points - for premium cosmetics from our new promotion partner:
www.SolsticeBeauty.com
CHAT just got better!
Women who use our system can earn FREE products from Solstice Beauty. Right now, the reward is any FREE product of your choice - to a maximum value of $128. The specific offer details may occasionally change, so please call the GrapeVine system for more information. Enjoy!
Women Always FREE: 418-3636 FREE 2 Hr Trial for MEN: 418-4646
The GrapeVine Club Inc. (www.GrapeVinePersonals.com) does not prescreen callers. Free local Edmonton call. Must be 18+ Fun and confidential. For men, limit one free trial account per home residential phone number.

LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS

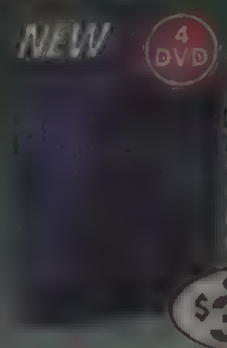
open Christmas Eve 8:30 - 5pm

gifts under $75



Star Wars Trilogy

ONLY! $57.99 4DVD



The Lord Of The Rings: The Return Of The King Extended Director's Edition

ONLY! $36.99 4DVD



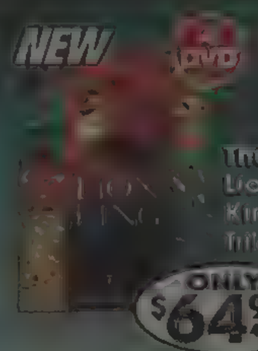
Looney Tunes Golden Collection Volume 2

ONLY! $52.99 4DVD



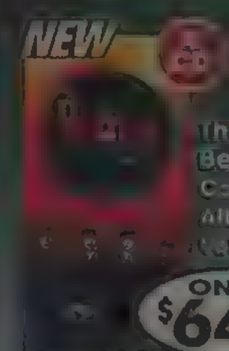
The Matrix Ultimate Collection

ONLY! $64.99 10DVD



The Lion King Trilogy

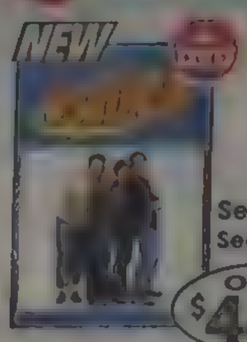
ONLY! $64.99 4DVD



The Beatles Capitol Albums Volume 1

ONLY! $64.99 4CD

gifts under $50



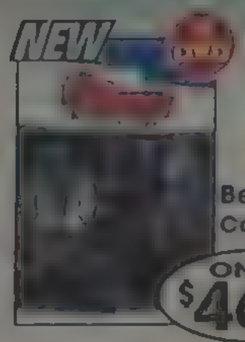
Seinfeld Season 3

ONLY! $44.99 4DVD



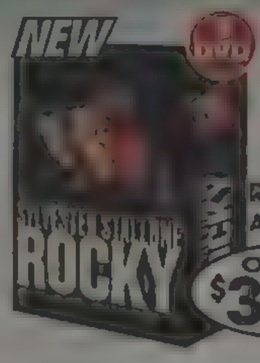
Seinfeld Seasons 1 & 2

ONLY! $44.99 4DVD



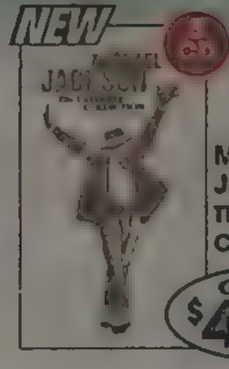
Ben Stiller Collection

ONLY! $46.99 4DVD



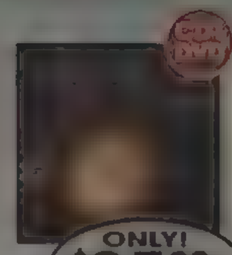
Rocky Anthology

ONLY! $36.99 5DVD



Michael Jackson The Ultimate Collection

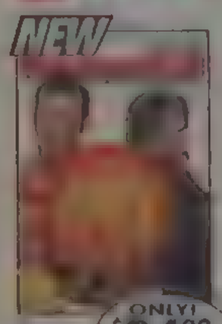
ONLY! $49.99 5CD



Josh Groban Live At The Greek

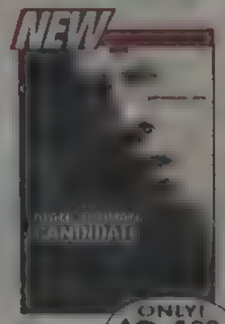
ONLY! $25.99 CD+DVD

gifts under $25



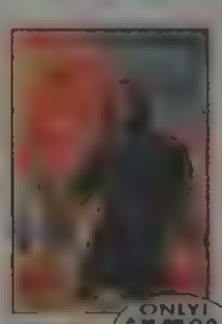
Dodge Ball

ONLY! $24.99 DVD



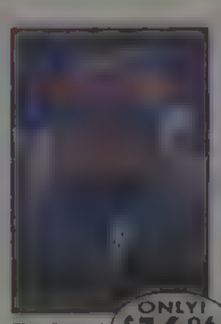
The Manchurian Candidate

ONLY! $24.99 DVD



Braveheart

ONLY! $15.98 DVD



The Sound Of Music

ONLY! $16.96 DVD



Much Dance 2005

ONLY! $15.99 CD



Phil Collins Love Songs

ONLY! $19.99 2CD



Jay-Z Linkin Park Collision Course

ONLY! $17.99 2CD



Sarah McLachlan Afterglow Live

ONLY! $16.99 CD+DVD

gifts under $15



Big Shiny Tunes 9

ONLY! $14.99 CD



ONLY! $12.99 CD



Creed Greatest Hits

ONLY! $14.99 CD



Destiny's Child Destiny Fulfilled

ONLY! $14.99 CD



Celine Dion Miracle

ONLY! $14.99 CD



Green Day American Idiot

ONLY! $14.99 CD



Seal Best Of 1991-2004

ONLY! $14.99 CD



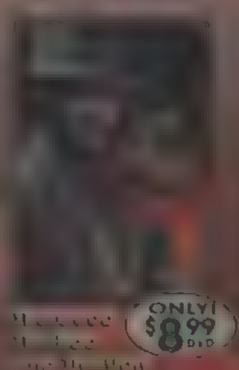
Women & Songs 8

ONLY! $14.99 CD

gifts under $10



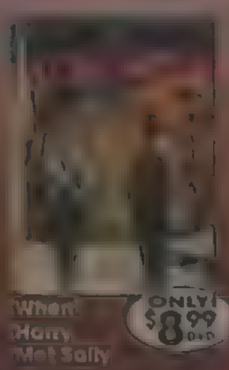
ONLY! $8.99 DVD



ONLY! $8.99 DVD



ONLY! $8.99 DVD



ONLY! $8.99 DVD



ONLY! $6.99 CD



ONLY! $9.99 CD



ONLY! $8.99 CD



ONLY! $9.99 CD

Shop With Confidence!

Red Deer: 5239 53rd Avenue 340-0[illegible]

sound advice

LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS

open Christmas Eve 8:30 - 5pr

gifts under $75

4 DVD — Star Wars Trilogy — ONLY! $57.99 4DVD

NEW 4 DVD — The Lord Of The Rings: The Return Of The King Extended Director's Edition — ONLY! $36.99 4DVD

4 DVD — Looney Tunes Golden Collection Volume 2 — ONLY! $52.99 4DVD

NEW 10 DVD — The Matrix Ultimate Collection — ONLY! $64.99 10DVD

NEW 4 DVD — The Lion King Trilogy — ONLY! $64.99 4DVD

NEW 4 CD — The Beatles Capitol Albums Volume 1 — ONLY! $64.99 4CD

gifts under $50

NEW — Seinfeld Season 3 — ONLY! $44.99 4DVD

NEW — Seinfeld Seasons 1 & 2 — ONLY! $44.99 4DVD

NEW — Ben Stiller Collection — ONLY! $46.99 4DVD

NEW — Rocky Anthology — ONLY! $36.99 5DVD

NEW 3 CD — Michael Jackson The Ultimate Collection — ONLY! $49.99 3CD

Josh Groban Live At The Greek — ONLY! $25.99 CD+DVD

gifts under $25

NEW — Dodge Ball — ONLY! $24.99 DVD

NEW — The Manchurian Candidate — ONLY! $24.99 DVD

Braveheart — ONLY! $15.98 DVD

The Sound Of Music — ONLY! $16.96 DVD

NEW — Much Dance 2005 — ONLY! $15.99 CD

NEW 2 CD — Phil Collins Love Songs — ONLY! $19.99 2CD

NEW 2 CD — Jay-Z Linkin Park Collision Course — ONLY! $17.99 2CD

NEW — Sarah Mclachlan Afterglow Live — ONLY! $16.99 DVD/CD

gifts under $15

NEW — Big Shiny Tunes 9 — ONLY! $14.99 CD

NEW — Chris Botti When I Fall In Love — ONLY! $12.99 CD

NEW — Creed Greatest Hits — ONLY! $14.99 CD

Destiny's Child Destiny Fulfilled — ONLY! $14.99 CD

Celine Dion Miracle — ONLY! $14.99 CD

Green Day American Idiot — ONLY! $14.99 CD

Seal Best Of 1991-2004 — ONLY! $14.99 CD

Women & Songs 8 — ONLY! $14.99 CD

gifts under $10

Dead Man Walking — ONLY! $8.99

The Good, The Bad And The Ugly — ONLY! $8.99

Rasputin — ONLY! $8.99

When Harry Met Sally — ONLY! $8.99

NEW — Matt Dusk Peace On Earth — ONLY! $6.99

Fleetwood Mac Rumours — ONLY! $9.99

John Mayer Room For Squares — ONLY! $8.99

Sarah McLachlan Surfacing — ONLY! $9.99 CD

Shop With Confidence!

• Western Canada's Largest Selection of Music & Movies at Lowest Everyday Prices
• Satisfaction Guaranteed • Listen Before You Buy • Knowledgeable Staff

Downtown Edmonton: 10232 106th Street 424-6000
Edmonton South: 3110 Calgary Trail South 433-6400 / Red Deer: 5239 53rd Avenue 340-0500

a&b sound

23RD ANNUAL

Global Visions
FILM FESTIVAL

The Colour of Currency

November 4–7, 2004

.globalvisionsfestival.com 414-1052

NX
1
V84
folio
no.468-
479
2004
HSS

The Colour of Currency

In its 23rd year the Global Visions Film Festival continues to champion alternative media, in a documentary form, that engages our community with social issues globally, nationally, and locally. The Festival screens new films on current issues, or on issues that continue to be relevant. The Festival programming, through the captivating form of cinema, serves to deliver new knowledge about the lives of our global citizens. We strive to be a catalyst for discussion, and to inspire action. This year's Festival theme, The Colour of Currency, will take us on global journeys that examine economic issues and human resources. Mixed into this theme is a sub-theme, Breaking Cycles, a look at efforts aimed at changing the course of social injustice and offering hope to humanity.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

WE ARE PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SPONSORS

edmonton arts council

Alberta Foundation for the Arts

Telefilm Canada

ONF NFB

Canada Council for the Arts

Conseil des Arts du Canada

Canadian International Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement international

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL SPONSORS – THEY ARE GREAT

cjsr FM88

engine

StudioPost

NEW ASIAN VILLAGE

COMITÉ CANADA TIBET COMMITTEE

Earth's General Store

PADMANADI VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT

Edmonton Public Library

MAMMOTH Productions Inc.

FIORE CANTINA ITALIANA

FAVA

VUE WEEKLY

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OP

ciné AUDIO VISUAL

metro CINEMA

PHILLET& MCLENNAN CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

THE EDMONTON ART GALLERY

ACGC Alberta Cou for Global Cooperation

23RD ANNUAL
Global Visions
FILM FESTIVAL



On behalf of the Global Visions Festival Society, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 23rd Annual Global Visions Film Festival: The Colour of Currency.

As we each face the unique challenges that confront us all in our global family today, we can take comfort in the power and energy derived from gathering together. It is our hope that as we take time out of our busy lives to explore this year's programme theme, The Colour of Currency, we will not only be heightening our awareness of the social and economic problems of our time, but the issues that underlie them, and how we might deal with it all. Now, more than ever, we must continue to build a positive global vision. Despite the overwhelming nature of war, social inequality, poverty, environmental degradation and the like, there exists phenomenal wisdom, creativity and compassion within our communities worldwide. There is no doubt that we have our work cut out for us but there is great cause for hope as we grow and learn from one another, and from our mistakes.

For our 23rd annual festival, we are proud to be able to showcase some of the most compelling, challenging and inspirational documentaries that tell the stories of our world. These accounts are brought to us by filmmakers whose hard work and commitment enable us to see our world with fresh, new insight.

A big warm thanks goes out to all our sponsors, members, board directors, advisors, Global Marketplace presenters, artists, and the many many volunteers who have all contributed so much in making this event possible. A special thanks to the festival staff for their creativity, hard work and commitment.

Once again, we welcome you to the gathering. Happy 23rd!

Sincerely,

Marc Piquette
Co-chair, Board of Directors
Global Visions Festival Society



Welcome and prepare to be wrapped in a rainbow of cultures as we unwrap the COLOURS OF CURRENCY. Take a trip with us and look through the lens of alternative media. The documentary art form is coming of age. The stories told are true and their consequences real. This is the world that you and I live in and as global citizens we are all affected. So come along, broaden your perspective, open your heart and bring some tissue paper — it's a tearjerker.

BREAKING CYCLES is the sub-theme that shines a bright light on our global tour; citizens can and do make a difference. We are very proud to present films about those who battle social injustice and make the world a better place to live.

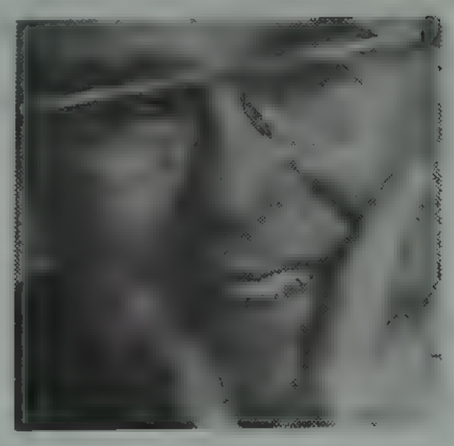
We have put together two Workshops/Roundtable discussions on this year's themes. These discussions will be aimed at activism as much as at film making, they are free to the public and I encourage you to attend.

Good cinema makes us pay attention to details, at times perhaps more so than to the details in our lives — let us examine those details and talk about the issues. We have set up a party environment, every evening after the films, for this purpose and we hereby invite you to attend.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to be the Festival Producer this year. I would like to acknowledge the programming committee for their guidance and support and to the Festival staff, Leslea, Muffy, Carol, and especially Marsh — thank you for your hard work and for making the job fun. And to the volunteers — the Festival is in your hands now, shine on.

Andy Laskiwsky,
Festival Producer

The Colour of Currency



As a member of Edmonton's City Council, I am pleased to support the Global Visions Film Festival. Each year, this wonderful film festival showcases scores of new documentary films to inspire and delight Edmontonians. These films cover the widest possible spectrum, giving us cause for reflection on issues and realities faced by our countless neighbours all around the globe. Innovative films take us to the heart of so many issues, building understanding and inspiration between many diverse peoples.

I am pleased to recommend Global Visions Film Festival; it adds a special something to the culture and intellectual life of Edmonton. And we can always count on the film festival to be well-organized and well-received, all thanks to the dedication and hard work of so many Edmontonians.

Sincerely,

Michael Phair,
Councillor, Ward 4



As minister responsible for the Alberta Film Development Program, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 2004 Global Visions Film Festival.

The art of film takes on many roles in our society. It is a form of entertainment, a pathway for personal expression and an outlet for social commentary. Films can inform and challenge us, giving us a new window to view the world around us.

The films featured at this year's Global Visions Film Festival offer attendees many new windows to peer through. Films from around the globe provide an insightful and powerful look into the world around us, and I would like to thank all the organizers, volunteers and filmmakers for bringing such a valuable community event to Edmonton.

Global Visions is a vital part of Alberta's cultural community, and the Government of Alberta is proud to be a supporter through our Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Best wishes for a very successful Global Visions Festival!

Gene Zwozdesky
Minister of Community Development
Deputy Government House Leader

Earth's General Store

Subvert The Dominant Paradigm!

Make a **DIFFERENCE**
Buy Fair Trade

CERTIFIED
Organic Fair Trade
COFFEE, TEA
& CHOCOLATE BARS

TRANSFAIR
Fair TradeMark Canada
www.transfair.ca

10832 - Whyte Avenue 439-8725

Announcing ...

Just Christmas 2004!

A Global Crafts &
Fair Trade Marketplace
The Prince of Wales Armouries
10440 – 108A Avenue

Friday November 26 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Saturday November 27 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Crafts and other worldly goods, live entertainment and delicious finger foods & refreshments available!

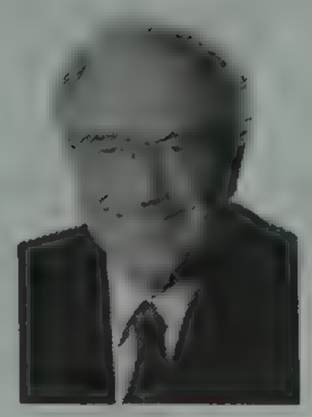
Just Christmas
(from "justice at Christmas")
is an alternative global marketplace
for quality crafts and other goods.

Market participants are philanthropic
not - for - profit organizations whose mandate is
to foster global awareness **and** to support
international development projects.

Admission is free – but donations
are encouraged (thanks!)
For more information: **474-6058 / 995-6819**
e-mail: leocamposa@aol.com

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

This year, the Global Visions Festival focuses its lens on efforts to effect positive change in the face of the many challenges for people in the developed and developing worlds, including poverty, discrimination and living in a war zone.



The Festival features distinctive Canadian and international voices, each documenting struggles against adversity and celebrating diversity and the resilience of the human spirit.

As a government cultural investor in film, television, new media and music, Telefilm Canada is proud to be a contributing sponsor of the 23rd annual Global Visions Festival. In order to underline its commitment to help a wider range of Canadian works connect with audiences, Telefilm provides support for events that actively enhance the profile of Canadian works, such as documentary films, that showcase homegrown talent, and that provide regions of Canada with increased access to Canadian productions.

On behalf of everyone at Telefilm Canada, I would like to commend the artists, industry professionals, volunteers and organizers whose dedication and hard work make this year's edition of the Global Visions Festival a success.

Enjoy the Festival!

Charles Bélanger, Chair, Telefilm Canada

Cette année, le Festival Global Visions s'attarde aux efforts des pays développés ou en voie de développement pour apporter des changements significatifs à des problèmes comme la pauvreté, la discrimination et la vie dans les zones de guerre.

Le Festival présente des voix originales, tant canadiennes qu'internationales, chacune traitant des luttes contre l'adversité tout en célébrant la diversité et la force de l'esprit humain.

À titre d'investisseur culturel dans les secteurs du cinéma, de la télévision, des nouveaux médias et de la musique, Téléfilm Canada est fière d'appuyer cette 23e édition du Festival Global Visions. S'étant engagée à ce que plus d'œuvres canadiennes rejoignent le public d'ici, la Société appuie les événements qui mettent en valeur le cinéma canadien et les talents locaux, qui donnent aux régions un meilleur accès aux productions canadiennes et qui contribuent au développement d'une solide industrie nationale.

Au nom des employés de Téléfilm Canada, j'aimerais saluer les artistes, professionnels de l'industrie, bénévoles et organisateurs dont le travail acharné et le dévouement auront permis au Festival Global Visions 2004 d'être un franc succès.

Bon festival!

Charles Bélanger, Président, Téléfilm Canada

23RD ANNUAL
Global Visions
FILM FESTIVAL

The National Film Board of Canada is proud to support the Global Visions Film Festival in its mission of promoting cinema as a catalyst for discussion and social change. As Canada's public film producer and distributor, this is our mission as well.



That's why the NFB is always on the lookout for projects that inform, provoke and spark debate. It's why we produce works by emerging directors as well as Canada's most acclaimed filmmakers — and provide our artists with the resources and support they need to fully realize their visions.

The NFB is 65 years young this year. Our doors are open to new independent filmmakers and our films are reaching audiences and touching people as never before. Film by film, community by community, we're building a new NFB.

Here in West, the NFB is committed to showcasing the talents of Western Canadian filmmakers to the rest of the country and the world — and reflecting the cultural richness and diversity that is Canada.

Enjoy the festival!

Jacques Bensimon
Government Film Commissioner and NFB Chairperson

ALTERNATIVE VIDEO SPOT
Your Choice for the Best in World Cinema
Great Selection
Great Service
Whyte Avenue • 10050-82 Ave • 439-2233
Jasper Avenue • #2 9026 Jasper Avenue • 429-2232
Riverbend • 14940-45 Avenue • 413-6364
www.alternativevideospot.com

The Colour of Currency

Future Visions II

We're proud to welcome the return of 'Future Visions', which we began presenting last year as part of the 2003 festival. In this program, the Film and Video Arts Society — Alberta (FAVA) collaborates with other community organizations to train youth to create their own videos which premiere at the Global Visions Film Festival as part of Youth Media Day. FAVA is a non-profit artist-run media arts coop providing a one-stop resource centre for artists. Their mandate is to facilitate and encourage the creation, exhibition and appreciation of independent film and video.

Two local youth centers (iHuman Youth Society, and the Boyle Street Education Centre) each selected young artists aged 16-21. Under the guidance of filmmaker Tim Folkmann, these young artists are introduced to various members of the film community to learn the art and craft of film and video production. Participants for Future Visions 2 are Brandy Austin, Ahbleza Bugler-Granbois ("Blaze"), Laura Derhousoff, Kirsten Sikora, and Mei Young.

Future Visions is designed to reach youth artists in inner city communities, and provide them both with the tools and skills to create new video work, and the validation and exposure of a screening at the end of the process. The young artists receive a solid grounding in the techniques and technology of videography, but also connect with potential mentors, colleagues and resources on whom they may draw in years to come.

"Those chosen for the Future Visions project must have shown personal creative activity in another art form (e.g. dance, music or visual art). These young artists have been chosen by their peers, their own school or inner city group. We feed the kids food. We give them cash up front but hold back completion funds and screening fees. We present great new video/film art mentors every day covering the day's lesson in camera, editing, lighting and subject. The two-week session is aimed at a single short video project with a specific completion deadline. Great video post-production and production facilities, as supplied by FAVA with funding by The Canada Council for the Arts. The completed works are screened at an advertised public premiere screening at the Global Visions International Film Festival." This Future Visions project was one of the best video education projects I have been involved with. This project offers the participants an intimate environment through small class size, emphasizing the immediacy of personal interaction and the benefits of collective video work. Support the creative mind."
TIM FOLKMANN Project Facilitator Future Visions II

FAVA gratefully acknowledges the Media Arts Section of the Canada Council for the Arts for sponsoring Future Visions II.

Youth Media Arts Day

In keeping with the Global Visions ethos of providing educational, inspirational and thought provoking media, it is with great excitement that I welcome Edmonton and area youth to the festival's 4th annual Youth Media Arts Day! The Youth Media Arts program was initiated in 2000 with an aim to provide young people with a forum for thought and discussion on global issues and local events as well as a venue to feature documentary film created by youth, or based on issues relevant to youth. The past three years has showcased youth produced and youth oriented documentary film, video, multimedia, radio, and print media work, and have provided an environment where young people can learn how to get involved with various community based organizations.

This year we are proud to once again partner with Fava and the Canada Council for the Arts to present Future Visions II — a selection of shorts created by a few of Edmonton's finest young creative minds. These young filmmakers will present their films and be available for a Q&A to discuss the process of film creation under the direction of local filmmaker Tim Folkmann. Political poetess and local youth filmmaker Margaret Haugen will host the event and share her experience as a filmmaker and as a "raving poet". In addition to youth speakers, artists and a panel of local youth based organizations, we will feature a screening of the film, *The Future of Food*. This is an engaging and informative film that explores in detail the creation and effects of genetically modified organisms from an ecological, economical, environmental, and socially conscious viewpoint. This film is sure to ignite reflection and discussion on the role multinational corporations play in the creation and distribution of the food we eat.

I encourage educators, students, young activists and artists to come out and share information, engage in discussion, and support the exploration and expression of media art.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Pickard
Youth Media Arts Day Coordinator
Global Visions Festival Society

Youth Media Arts Day Thanks

This event would not be possible without the help and support of Allison Baker. Also thanks to Angayla Waterman, Sonya Thompson, Marc Piquette, Marsh Murphy, iHuman Youth Society, Boyle Street Education Center, FAVA, Future Visions II, The Canada Council for the Arts, and Roots Organic Food Store.

organic roots Food Market

Marketplace

Marketplace Sponsor: The Alberta Council for Global Cooperation



ACGC is a coalition of voluntary sector organizations located in Alberta, working locally and globally to achieve sustainable human development. ***www.web.net/acgc/***

Amnesty International

A worldwide activist movement that works to prevent violations of people's basic civil and political human rights by governments or other groups. We campaign to free all prisoners of conscience (provided they do not advocate violence), to ensure fair, prompt trials, to abolish the death penalty, torture, end political killings and disappearances. ***www.amnesty.ca***

Sierra Club – Prairie Chapter

John Muir founded the Sierra Club in 1892 to protect the wilderness of the Sierra Nevada. Muir believed that if people could experience the wilderness and understand its value they would cherish it and work to protect and preserve it. The Sierra Club has been active in Canada since 1969, working to influence public policy and raise environmental awareness. ***www.prairie.sierraclub.ca***

Canada World Youth

Canada World Youth is a national, non-governmental organization that provides young people from Canada and around the world with the opportunity to travel, live and work in different communities, to learn about local and international development and to gain important skills for the future. ***www.cwy-jcm.org***

HIV Network of Edmonton Society

HIV Edmonton educates, supports and advocates for those infected and affected by HIV and related conditions. ***www.hivedmonton.com***

Bopeniang Society

Bopeniang is a delightful new Fair Trade line of quality cotton quilting products from Laos. Hand stitched by the 78 women we support in Laos PPR, each piece will surely become someone's favorite. ***www.bopeniang.ca***

Parkland Institute

The Parkland Institute is a public policy research network dedicated to research and education toward the public good. We work to enlighten and inform the public debate in Alberta on political and economic issues. ***www.ualberta.ca/parkland***

Canada Tibet Committee

CTC is a registered non-profit organization working to the end to Human Rights Abuse in Tibet and self-determination for the Tibet people. CTC is informing Canadians through education, cultural events and outreach about the critical situation facing the Tibetan people and pressing Canadian policy makers to act in support of Tibet. ***www.tibet.ca***

Earth's General Store

For over 12 years Earth's General Store has been offering people information and products to help us reduce our impact on the environment and society. ***www.earthsgeneralstore.ca***

ICDR Intercultural Community Development Resources Inc.

A progressive bookstore – distributor specializing in crossing cultures and international development. ***www.mastersandscribes.com***

Change for Children Association

Change for Children is an Edmonton-based non-profit organization with a 27 year history of working for sustainable, grassroots community development in Latin America and the Philippines. ***www.changeforchildren.org***

Alberta Public Interest Research Group

APIRG helps students improve their communities by supporting student research, education and action projects. Our goal is to help transform students' concerns into effective action. ***www.apirg.org***

Sombrilla Refugee Support Society

Sombrilla Refugee Support Society is an Alberta-based independent non-governmental organization founded in 1985. We work to facilitate respect for human rights, social justice and sustainable development in Central America. We seek to engage the Canadian public to support and participate in the pursuit of a just and sustainable development. ***www.sombrilla.ca***

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders

For over 30 years, MSF has provided rapid response and specialized medical Assistance to people in crisis, including armed conflicts, natural disasters, epidemics and famines. ***www.msf.ca***

World Partnership Walk

Join the fight against global poverty through this national event where 100% of all funds raised goes directly towards "Smart Solutions" to problems in developing countries. ***www.worldpartnershipwalk.com***

The Council of Canadians

Founded in 1985, The Council of Canadians is Canada's pre-eminent citizen's watchdog organization, comprised of over 100,000 members with more than 70 chapters across the country. An Edmonton Chapter is being organized. Call 429-4500 for meeting updates. ***www.canadians.org***

Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers

EMCN works to ensure immigrants have the opportunity for full participation in life in Edmonton by providing services— including ESL, employment and counseling— and by advocacy for change in the dominant society. ***www.emcn.ab.ca.***

Centre for Eritrean Culture and Sports

Provides Eritreans with health information, cultural awareness and sports for youth and children. 2907-44 A Street, Edmonton AB T6L 5P6, 422-1999

Catholic Social Services Host Program

The Host Program matches immigrants and refugees with volunteers who wish to help newcomers adjust to their new life in Canada. CSS offers many programs to people of all faiths and cultures. ***www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca***

Voice for Animals Humane Society (V4A)

V4A is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting animals through advocacy and education, from neglect, abuse and exploitation. ***www.v4a.org***

The Colour of Currency

Afghanistan Unveiled

Sun Nov 7
1:00 pm
Library Theatre

Screens with:
Herders' Calling

Farsi, with English subtitles
Director: Brigitte Brault & Aina Women Filming Group • 2003 • 52 min



AFGHANISTAN

Filmed by the first ever team of women video journalists trained in Afghanistan, this rare and uncompromising film explores the effects of the Taliban's repressive rule and recent U.S. military campaign on Afghani women. None of the 14 journalist trainees had ever traveled outside Kabul. Except for one, none had been able to study or pursue careers while the Taliban controlled their country.

Leaving Kabul behind for the more rural regions of the country, the filmmakers present heartbreaking footage of Hazara women whose lives have been decimated by recent events. With little food and no water or electricity, these women have been left to live in caves and fend for themselves, abandoned in the wake of the U.S. campaign. While committed to revealing such tragedies to the world, the filmmakers also manage to find moving examples of hope for the future. A poetic journey of self-discovery, *Afghanistan Unveiled* is a revelatory and profound reminder of the independent media's power to bear witness and reveal truth.

Berlin Film Festival • Copenhagen International Documentary Festival

Archivo de la Identidad

Fri Nov 5
7:00 pm
Metro Cinema

Screens with: In ***Rwanda We Say ... The Family That Does Not Speak Dies***



Spanish with English subtitles • Director: Simone Duarte • 2004 • 28 min

BRAZIL/ARGENTINA

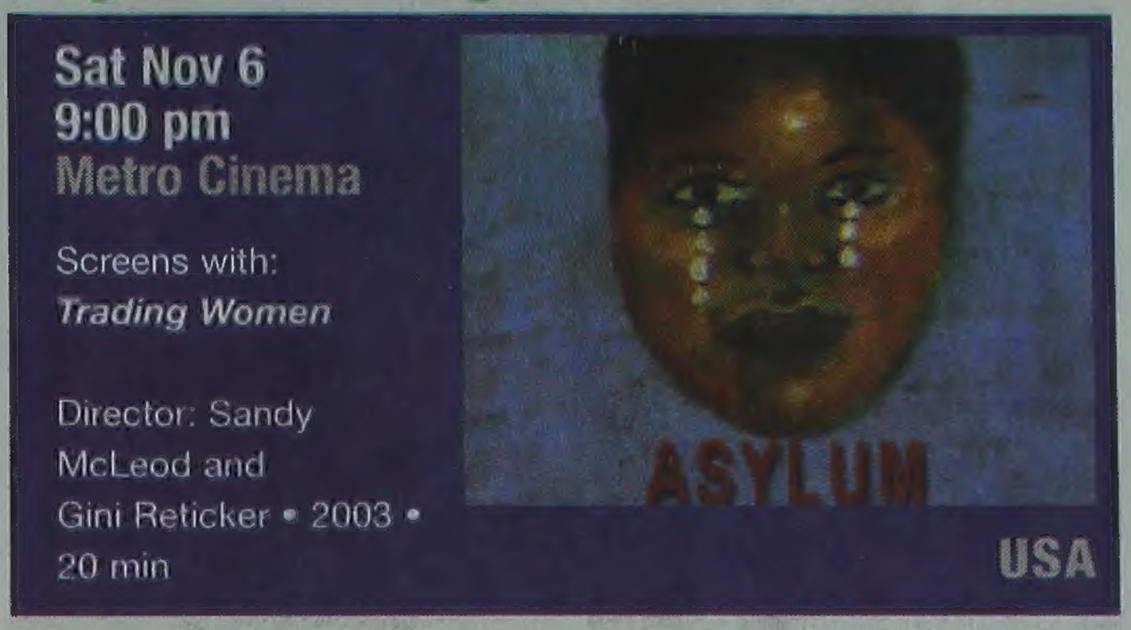
Imagine growing up in a family with the murderers or torturers of your birth parents. This is what is happening in Argentina, where approximately 500 children who were born in captivity or kidnapped by the military during the dictatorship in the late 1970s and early '80's, were given to officers and policemen to be raised as their own.

The documentary *Archivo de la Identidad* shows a group of young adults who are digging up the past. Some of the filmmakers are children of "Los Desaparecidos". Through interviews with relatives and friends of the couples who were considered left wing (and ultimately "disappeared" by the regime), the documentarians are building a unique archive, the only one of its kind in the world. The stories that they are discovering are ones of life and love: the soccer team a father routed rooted for, his favorite colour; the places someone's mother liked to visit. All the information about the couples is given — or will be — to the children, now young adults, when and if they are found. The Archivo is a project between the Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo Association and the University of Buenos Aires. *Archivo de la Identidad* shows their work and its importance, not only for an individual discovering his or her real identity, but for the whole of Argentine society.

2003 Derhumalc: Human Rights Film Festival, Buenos Aires • 2004 Amnesty Intl West Hollywood Film Fest

Breaking the Cycle

Asylum: Fleeing Genital Mutilation

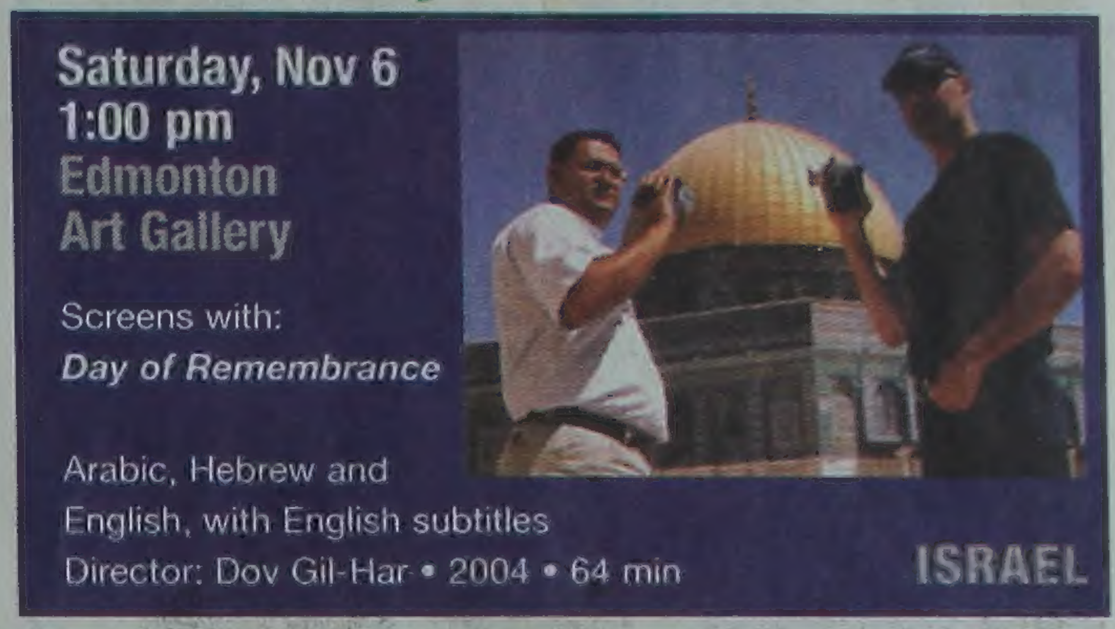


Asylum is a powerful tale of a young Ghanian woman whose life suddenly changes when her father insists that she undergo a bloody, life-threatening circumcision and then marry an old man. Although traditional circumcision is now illegal in Ghana, it is still practiced.

Baaba Andoh had a happy childhood, raised by her mother who sold vegetables in the market place. Baaba had sought out her long-lost father to seek his blessing for her marriage to the man of her dreams. To her horror, she learned of her father's plan and fled her village. Her father, a man of some means, pursued her. Having no recourse but to leave the country, she obtained a false passport and a ticket to the U.S. with the help of friends. The INS spotted the forgery immediately and arrested her at Newark Airport. She spends a nightmarish year in prison before she is successful in obtaining political asylum. Her chilling story is not unlike that of many of the 7,000 female immigrants now being held in detention, awaiting legal representation and hearings on their claims.

Academy Award Nomination, Best Short Documentary, 2004 • Best Documentary, Aspen Shortsfest, 2003

Behind Enemy Lines



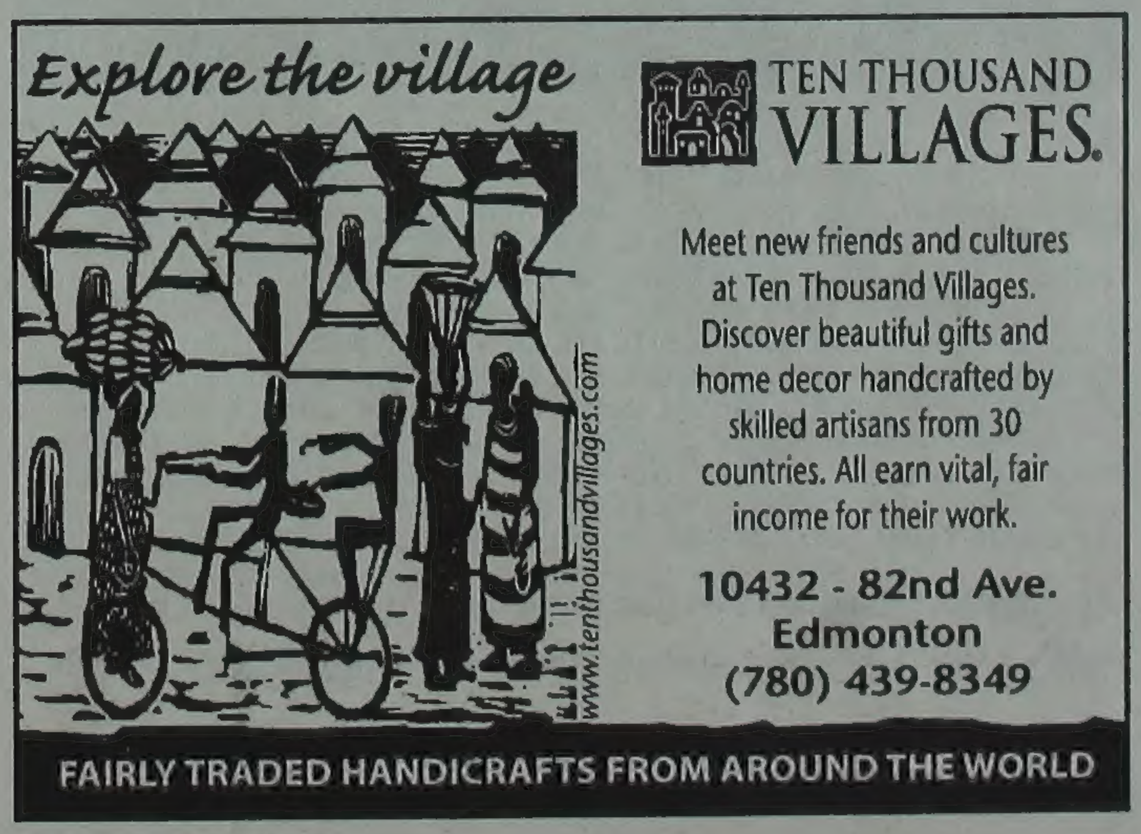
In the midst of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, two former friends and present-day enemies embark on an emotional journey into Intifahda-land, in search of the origins of the bloodshed.

They first met more than four years ago on a joint peace mission to Japan. While embracing the "Tokyo Spirit" of understanding, the two vowed to take home a message of peace. Soon after their return, the second Intifahda erupted.

Benny Herness, an Israeli police officer, and Palestinian journalist Adnan Joulani spend a week travelling together through places which have become symbols of the dispute. Each has selected locations in attempt to convince the other of his own truth: Jenin refugee camp, terror-ridden Jerusalem, the disputed Temple Mount, the family of a suicide bomber and more.

Behind Enemy Lines is an emotional and dramatic quest through the milestones of the conflict. Despite the huge gap in their perspectives, Adnan and Benny try to find ways to communicate. Their success can serve as a single ray of hope in present pessimistic times. *Behind Enemy Lines* is a sequel to *Sleeping with the Enemy*, a film which followed the original journey to Japan.

Berline Jewish Film Festival • San Francisco Jewish Film Festival



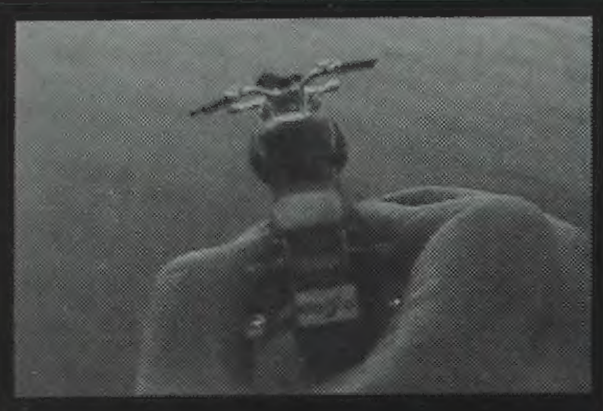
Breaking the Cycle

The Colour of Currency

Bon Voyage

Saturday, Nov 6
9:00 pm
Library Theatre

Screens with:
The End of Suburbia



Chinese and Taiwanese with English subtitles
Director: Robert Chang Chin Lin • 2003 • 4 min

USA/TAIWAN

It's a unique visual memory. Motorcycle is nostalgia for Robert Chang Chin Lin, a Taiwanese filmmaker who lives in upstate New York. Through the motorcycle's POV, we see him dodge traffic in Taipei City. Taipei City is known as the busiest traffic city in the world, especially for its huge number of motorcycles. What is interesting about Taipei's traffic is its ruleless way of driving with limited accidents occurring.

2004 Ithaca: Ithaca Film Festival, NY
2004 Aurura: Aurora Picture Show, TX

Born Into Brothels

Friday, Nov 5
7:00 pm
Library Theatre

Director: Zana Briski, Ross Kauffman • 2003 • 83 min



USA/INDIA

The most stigmatized people in Calcutta's red light district, are not the prostitutes, but their children. In the face of abject poverty, abuse, and despair, these kids have little possibility of escaping their mother's fate or for creating another type of life.

In *Born into Brothels*, directors Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman chronicle the amazing transformation of the children they come to know in the red light district. Briski, a professional photographer, gives them lessons and cameras, igniting latent sparks of artistic genius that reside in these children who live in the most sordid and seemingly hopeless world. The photographs taken by the children are not merely examples of remarkable observation and talent; they reflect something much larger, morally encouraging, and even politically volatile: art as an immensely liberating and empowering force.

Devoid of sentimentality, *Born into Brothels* defies the typical tear-stained tourist snapshot of the global underbelly. Briski spends years with these kids and becomes part of their lives. Their photographs are windows into their souls, rather than anthropological curiosities or primitive imagery, and a true testimony of the power of the indelible creative spirit.

Audience Award, 2004 Sundance Film Fest
Prize for Courage in Filmmaking, Human Rights Watch 2004

Breaking the Cycle

A Call to Action

ONF NFB

Saturday, Nov 6
5:00 pm
Library Theatre

Screens with: ***No Place Called Home***



French with English subtitles
Director: Carl Thériault • 2004 • 12 min

CANADA

When you've spoken out against injustice, and the government has turned a deaf ear, what do you do next? This is the dilemma faced by Gaétan Héroux. The Toronto activist leads us through the Dundas/ Sherbourne area, one of Toronto's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. We discover a darker side to Canada's "Queen City" as Héroux exposes the attacks and repression endured by the poor and homeless, whose ranks have been constantly growing since 1998.

Eight years ago, Héroux joined the Ontario Coalition